NEW YORK POST

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RIGHT TURN ON RED

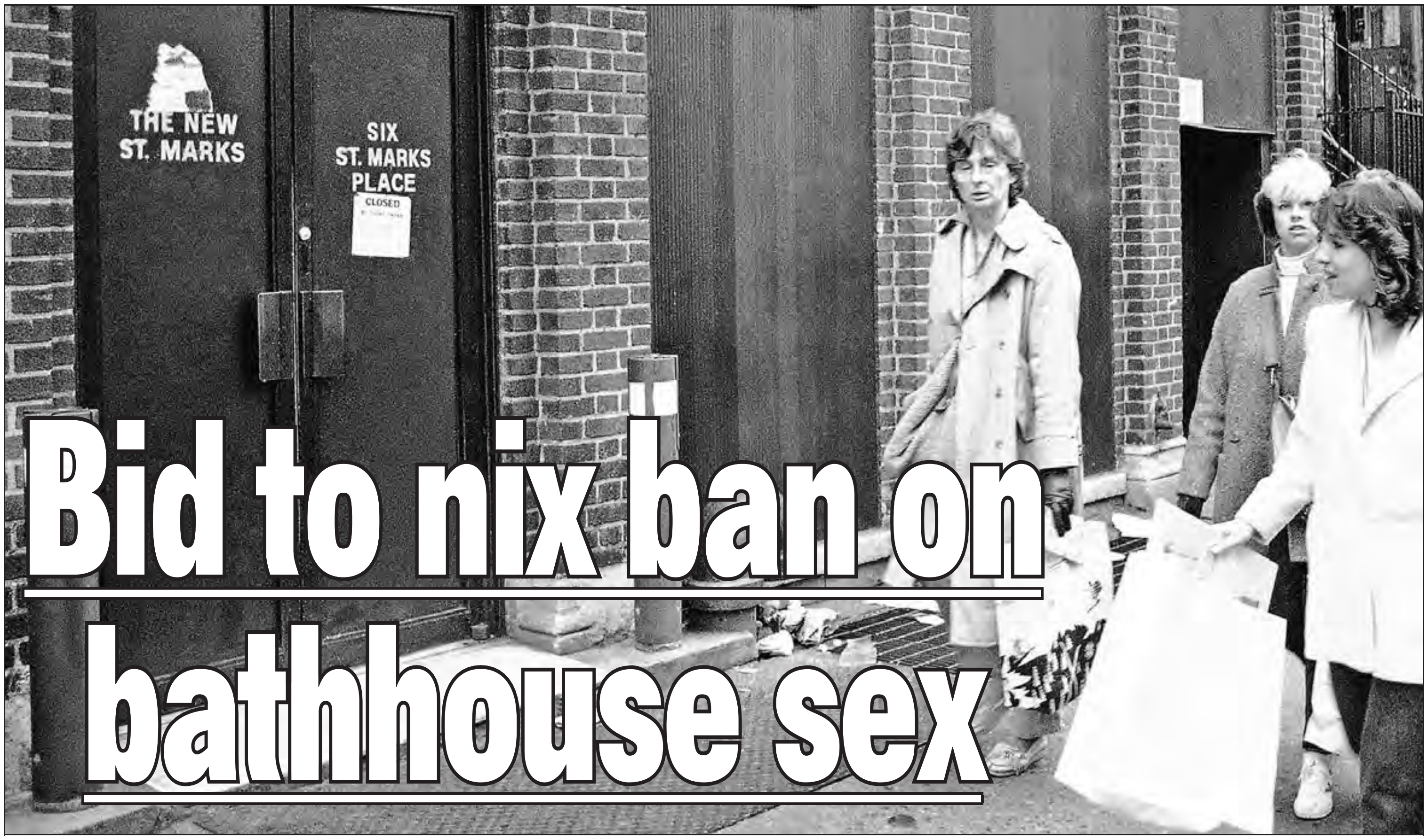
GOP midterm prospects improve as Dems nominate socialist radicals

Israel-hating socialist Abdul El-Sayed narrowly won the Democratic nomination to run for a Senate seat from Michigan, which some analysts say increases the chance of Republicans holding onto the chamber in the general election. Establishment Democratic Party officials are panicking over the rise of radical left-wing candidates.

PAGES 4-5

Reuters, Shutterstock

State bill eyes repeal of AIDS-era law



AP

Bid to nix ban on bathhouse sex

OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE: A "closed" order is pasted to the door of the infamous St. Mark's Baths hookup spot in the East Village in 1986.

By CARL CAMPANILE
and HANNAH FIERICK

They're bringing back true hookup "hot spots."

A steamy new proposal would legalize sex in saunas and bathhouses citywide — repealing a 1980s law that blamed the wet-and-wild romps for spreading AIDS among gay folks.

State Sen. Erik Bottcher and Assembly member Tony Simone, who represent Manhattan's LGBT-friendly West Side, said it was time to replace the dusty old ban on "adult saunas."

"We should bring it out of the shadows," Simone said during an interview Wednesday, arguing bathhouses would be healthier and safer if they were regulated.

"It was part of gay culture. These people are adults. Sex is consensual," he said.

The current law states, "No establishment shall make facilities available for the purpose of sexual activities where anal intercourse, vaginal intercourse or fellatio take place. Such facilities shall constitute a threat to the public health."

But the new legislation to repeal it recognizes that saunas have served for decades as important gathering places for gay folks — before they were shuttered during the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic to curb infections and deaths.

'30 years of research'

"The year is 2026, not 1986: evidence-based practices informed by the past 30 years of public health research make it clear we should repeal the ban on adult-use bathhouses and saunas," Simone said in a statement announcing the bill.

"Queer New Yorkers are being forced into the shadows . . . we all know these places exist," he said.

Indeed, several spas and bathhouses in the Big Apple are already rumored hotbeds for sex — with reports of public hookups at Spa Castle in Queens and the East Side Club, a 24-hour sauna in Midtown.

Veteran LGBT activist Allen Roskoff, who lost loved ones to AIDS, said the ban on bathhouses was a divisive issue in the gay community in the 1980s, with many gays for and against the shutdown.

But he said it's time for bathhouses to return.

"New York's bathhouses were an integral part of gay life for decades," said Roskoff, president of the Jim Owles Liberal LGBT Democratic Club.

He said the bathhouses were places to socialize and have sex, but they were more than that.

"They were symbols of our community, our culture and our fight for civil rights and sexual liberation. I spent much of my youth in them," Roskoff said.

He said political leaders campaigned there and entertainers including Bette Midler and Barry Manilow performed there.

Roskoff argued they were tourist attractions, with gays from across the globe frequenting bathhouses.

While the LGBT lobby backs the repeal, conservatives oppose state-licensed facilities that promote anonymous, promiscuous sex.

"These bathhouses are a thing of the past. They were awful," said Councilwoman Vickie Paladino (R-Queens). "It's an open door. They would be 10 times worse today."

More than 100,000 New Yorkers have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

Additional reporting by Natalie O'Neill

E-bike sellers in Zo's sights

Mayor Mamdani would not commit to removing dangerous e-bikes from city streets or support legislation requiring the vehicles to be registered, even as he acknowledged the danger posed by the machines.

Instead, Mamdani announced at a City Hall press conference Wednesday that his administration had issued cease-and-desist orders to 42 online retailers illegally selling high-speed e-bikes and scooters in the city, threatening $2,000 fines per sale if the retailers don't comply by Aug. 18.

"We cannot and will not accept these dangerous vehicles on our city streets. And yet, the companies that sell these vehicles continue to market them to New Yorkers who trust that the product they are purchasing is legal in the city," Mamdani said.

The announcement came a day after City Council Speaker Julie Menin unveiled a slate of legislation aimed at cracking down on reckless e-bikers.

Mamdani's order targets future sales of three categories of illegal devices: stand-up scooters weighing over 100 pounds or capable of exceeding 20 mph; e-bikes with motors bigger than 750 watts or able to hit speeds above 25 mph; and seated mopeds lacking a valid vehicle identification number.

But Hizzoner demurred when asked if he would direct his administration to go after vehicles that have already been sold.

"For now, this is our focus," he said. *Haley Brown*

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NEW YORK
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■ Evening Win-4 Wed.: **8549**
■ Evening Take-5 Wed.: **3, 16, 17, 29, 30**
■ Lotto Wed.: **2, 9, 30, 38, 42, 53**; Bonus: **10**
■ Pick-10 Wed.: **1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 28, 29, 31, 34, 36, 37, 38, 46, 49, 57, 64, 66, 68, 72, 78**
■ Millionaire for Life Wed.: **25, 27, 32, 38, 54**; MB: **3**
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NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Wed.: **032;** Fireball: **7**
■ Pick-4 Wed.: **8014;** Fireball: **7**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Wed.: **2, 8, 13, 31, 41;** Xtra: **x3**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Wed.: **830;** Wild: **1**
■ Play-4 Wed.: **8866;** Wild: **4**
■ Cash-5 Wed.: **9, 18, 21, 24, 29**

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Grayson Vaughan for Cosmopolitan

Jennie's loving the 'single' life

Already a member of the phenomenally popular K-Pop supergroup Blackpink, 30-year-old Jennie is also finding herself as a solo artist. Her new single released last month, "Less Than a Lover," had 3.6 million views on YouTube in its first 10 hours. "In my head, I'm still such a free and young spirit that's on a journey to find herself," the singer and rapper said in the fall issue of Cosmopolitan magazine (inset). And what does the future hold? "I'm leaving a little blank space in my head to see if there's anything else I want to reach for."

BUY BYE, BABY

Friendzone nix

By ANDREA PALLADINO

Friendzoned? In this economy?

Some men are saying that inflation has made it too expensive to pay for a woman's drink unless they know it's leading to something.

And the price of "taking it slow" and working your way from friend to lover is now too expensive and financially irresponsible, according to these viral TikToks.

"Back in 2012, s--t used to be cheap," ranted a TikToker named Gordon in a now-viral video. "You could blow $2 to $3 on a coffee for your 'girl best friend' that you were interested in."

Today, Gordon, 21, says that kind of cash is unavailable. "Now you're blowing a lot of cheese for something where you're getting absolutely nothing in return," he said.

Gordon, who declined to share his last name, told The Post he recently studied abroad in Europe and would buy drinks for women all the time because "it was generally cheaper" than it is in America.

He could "dish out a few drinks a night for women you may not see any romantic attraction to, without breaking your wallet."

Now that he's back in the Bay Area, where drinks are significantly more expensive, buying rounds for "women you would not see any romantic spark with" is no longer an option.

Gordon said the video is a commentary on how economics can affect romance and courtship.

"Nobody talks about the friendzone because we've hit a point where it's too expensive to even sustain ourselves, let alone a girl who sees you only as a friend," he explained.

Going my way?

Formerly friendzoned young men also weighed in, sharing their own frustration.

"Facts. I used to take a girl that friendzoned me to Applebee's every week. Our bill was $19 with tip . . . could never do that these days . . ."

But some on TikTok called out the advice from these viral takes — along with the idea that a $20 spend is unthinkable between friends — as immature cheapskate behavior.

"Friends spend money on each other, especially when a friend is in need, regardless of gender or alternative intentions," wrote one. "Come on now, man."

And if you can't afford a Starbucks latte, perhaps you're not ready for a steady lady — either.

DEM RED ALERT

ISAAC SCHORR

Final nail in coffin

Old guard's dead

IF you're surprised, you haven't been paying attention.

Abdul El-Sayed is a "defund the police" socialist who has fantasized about putting an "ogre" (fellow Democrat John Fetterman) on a pike, stumped alongside a 9/11 apologist and constructed an entire campaign around insidious Jew-baiting amid a raging epidemic of antisemitism.

He is also the Democratic nominee for Senate in Michigan after narrowly dispatching establishment favorite Haley Stevens in Tuesday's primary.

El-Sayed's triumph marks not the beginning of the end for the party's old guard, but the final nail in its coffin.

After all, the civil war was over before the (relative) moderates ever started fighting it in earnest.

From its inception onward, the rebels would accept only unconditional surrender from center-left Democratic elders, who in turn appeased, placated and groveled before their sworn enemies, somehow mistaking them for a friendly faction that could deliver them victories without changing the party's very nature.

That El-Sayed may cost Democrats the seat he's running for — and quite possibly control of Congress' upper chamber for the next two years — is of little consequence to his supporters.

Willing to lose

Despite the vast ocean between Stevens' and Republican nominee Mike Rogers' politics, they share a worldview in which the United States is, at its core, a great nation built on principles that everyone can get behind.

It's that premise that El-Sayed's supporters hope to extinguish once and for all — and they're willing to lose the occasional election along the way to remake the country in their own ugly image.

Make no mistake, either: they will lose elections.

The last time a Republican won a Senate race in the Great Lakes State was 1994, yet Rogers may well pull it off in the year of our Lord 2026 with the albatrosses of a president whose approval rating is drowning 20,000 leagues under the sea and GOP majorities on Capitol Hill hanging around his neck.

Two recent surveys conducted by the Glengariff Group and the Michigan Information & Research Service peg Rogers' lead over El-Sayed at 10 and 3 points, respectively.

Meanwhile, next door in Wisconsin, Francesca Hong (of "Cancel Thanksgiving" fame) appears poised to win the Democratic nomination to serve as its next chief executive.

The Democrat she's seeking to replace, Gov. Tony Evers, has already publicly expressed doubt about her prospects of prevailing against Republican Tom Tiffany.

A new Manhattan Institute survey tells us why: the far-left's agenda on a wide range of issues — from welfare, to immigration, to crime — remains wildly unpopular among the general electorate.

The terrifying qualifier is this: *for now.*

What those prematurely celebrating El-Sayed's and Hong's potential defeats in November don't realize is that these radicals and the voting bloc behind them are after bigger fish than statewide midterm races in the Rust Belt.

Of course they'd prefer to take oaths of office come January, but they're already running ahead of schedule.

They've already changed Democratic politics forever by anathematizing the capital-L Liberalism of the 20th and early 21st centuries, let alone moderation or a "third way."

No longer fringe

One of America's two major parties now belongs to these veritable psychopaths, whom the far left has spent a decade programming to obsess over a murderers' row of moral panics.

"Trans people are being erased! Israel is committing war crimes! America is complicit! No human is illegal! Abolish the police! Abolish the prisons! Everybody is racist, whether they know it or not!"

These aren't the eye-rolling-inducing shrieks of the fringe, they're the tenets of one of America's two major parties' platform.

The nature of American politics is such that the pendulum is bound to swing in their new vessel's direction eventually, regardless of how voters might feel about their program in a vacuum.

When it does, it will be the likes of El-Sayed, Hong, Darializa Avila Chevalier and Zohran Mamdani who delight in the spoils.

And the rest of us who pay the price.

By JOSH CHRISTENSON, CARL CAMPANILE and ALLY GOELZ

Republicans are seeing red meat after Democrats grew their army of "mini Zohran Mamdanis" to take into battle for control of Congress in November.

Michigan's primary on Tuesday echoed Democratic elections in New York, Maine, Colorado and beyond, where far left — including socialist — candidates beat out moderates in states critical to the 2026 midterm elections.

Lefty Dr. Abdul El-Sayed narrowly defeated centrist Rep. Haley Stevens in the Senate Democratic primary on Tuesday; Democratic Socialists of America-backed Michigan state Rep. Donavan McKinney ousted incumbent Rep. Shri Thanedar; and William Lawrence, a community organizer endorsed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), triumphed over two moderate opponents in a primary for a House seat.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) told The Post Wednesday the outcomes were "making it easier on Republicans."

"What's your choice between a Republican and a crazy person?" Cornyn asked.

El-Sayed, a Muslim doctor who wants to abolish ICE, pass Medicare-for-All and insists Israel is just "as evil as Hamas," defeated Stevens, who was backed by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, with 48.5% to 47.5% of the vote.

While Stevens easily won rural areas and held her own in Detroit and its suburbs, El-Sayed ran up massive margins in the college town of Ann Arbor as well as the growing city of Grand Rapids, home of the young, white and college-educated voters who have flocked to the DSA elsewhere.

"Michigan Republicans have a turnout problem, but Mike Rogers just caught a political lifeline," said Dennis Lennox, a Michigan Republican consultant. "The prospect of Abdul El-Sayed in the Senate is real, and that will energize Republicans while converting many normie Democrats, especially Jewish voters, into being Democrats for Rogers."

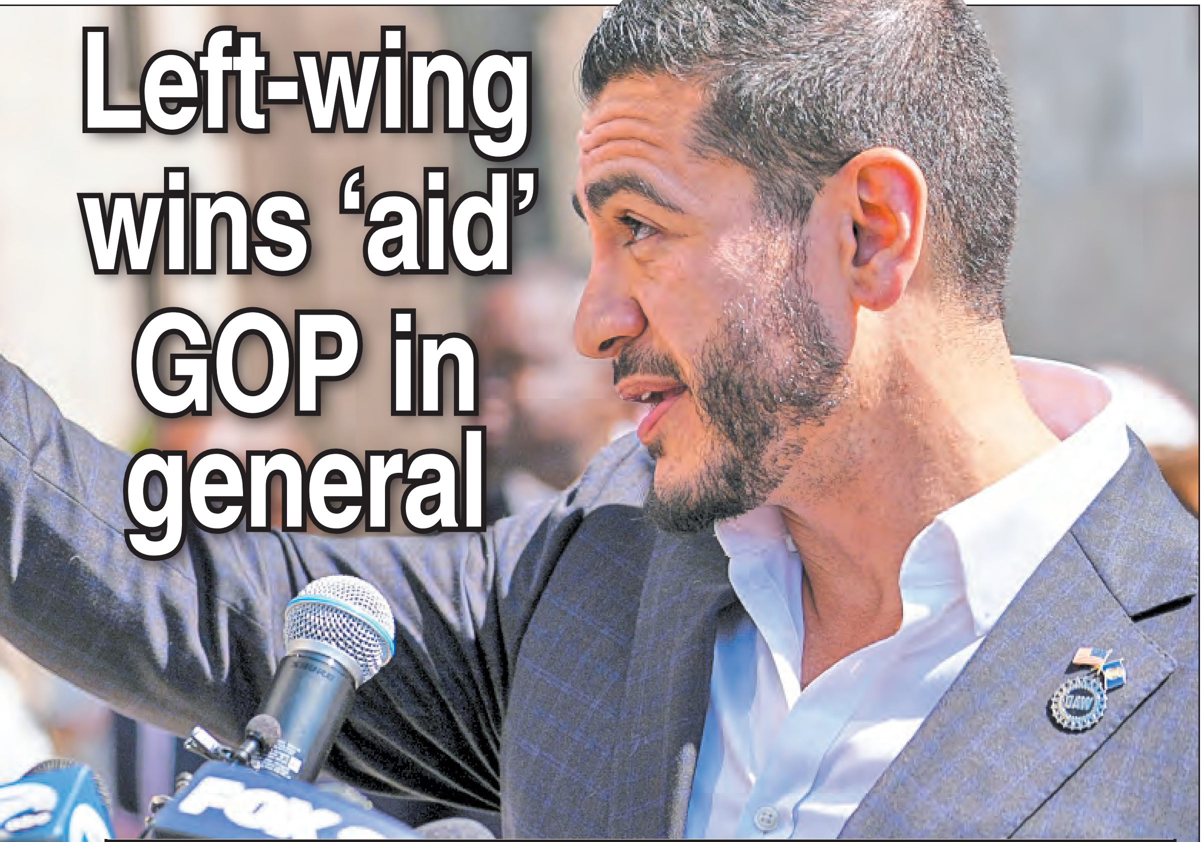
Dick Morris, a political consultant to Bill Clinton for 20 years, including his 1996 re-election, before aiding Trump, called it "a huge gift for Republicans" and predicted Rogers will defeat El-Sayed.

WON THE BATTLE: Socialist Abdul El-Sayed speaks Wednesday after his victory in the Democratic primary for one of Michigan's US Senate seats. Republicans doubt his base of supporters (below) will be enough for him to win in the general election, while Democrats say he'll need to move toward the middle to appeal to swing voters.

ELECTION 2026

IN MICH.

Left-wing wins 'aid' GOP in general



AP

JD pushes new anti-fraud laws

Vice President JD Vance called on Congress to codify more anti-fraud protections in upcoming bills during a Wednesday roundtable at the White House — in order to avoid, he said, a future Democratic administration undoing his task force's work.

So far, the White House Anti-Fraud Task Force has uncovered $230 billion in fraudulent funds that have gone out through taxpayer-funded benefit programs — and halted at least $56 billion that would have gone toward scammers, Vance told reporters.

But he added that his team's efforts "fundamentally always have a limitation unless our colleagues in the House and the Senate are working with us."

"We don't want the next administration, whoever ... God forbid you're gonna have President El-Sayed in three years," Vance said, "we don't want him to undo all the incredible work that we've been doing."

Dr. Abdul El-Sayed has been critical of Vance's task force.

Josh Christenson

AFP via Getty Images

Other Democrats pointed out that El-Sayed would have to moderate his messaging for the general election against Rogers.

"Time will tell whether Abdul wants to bring people together and moderate significantly or keep on hanging out with his buddy Hasan [Piker] who calls all Zionists Nazis," another Democratic source said of the controversial streamer. "If I worked at the DSCC, I wouldn't get my hopes up."

Rory Lancman, a Jewish civil rights lawyer running as a Democratic candidate for New York State Senate, said: "Outside of the blue districts and low-turnout primaries, the antisemitism and extremism that El-Sayed represents will not travel very far or very well with mainstream voters."

According to the RealClearPolitics polling aggregator, Rogers is barely ahead of El-Sayed in the most recent surveys but had been trailing behind Stevens by several percentage points.

"You lose your home, you lose your apartment, and that's where the communists will take us — 100%," President Trump said at an event Wednesday. "When I watch Abdul, he's full of s--t. ... He almost lost, but he's going to lose to our great candidate."

The GOP currently holds the Senate 53-47, with Michigan, Maine, Ohio and Alaska considered toss-ups for party control of the upper chamber.

More than a dozen House seats will determine which party gains the majority in the lower chamber.

On the generic congressional ballot, Democrats are ahead by more than seven points, the RealClearPolitics' average shows.

Miranda Devine / P. 15

X / @socialistadri

FLIPPING OUT: Hasan Piker calls Democrats who didn't support Abdul El-Sayed "Islamophobic" during an election-party stream Tuesday.

Ball S'*Piker*' rips centrists

By CHRIS NESI

Multimillionaire socialist streamer Hasan Piker threw a tantrum for the ages over Tuesday's closer-than-expected Democratic Senate primary in Michigan, lashing out at commonsense Dems who didn't vote for his hard-left candidate of choice, Abdul El-Sayed.

"Everyone being like, 'Abdul has a f--k-ton of work to do mending bridges,' here's the f--king take nuke for you: You are all unbelievably Islamophobic pieces of s--t," Piker said at an El-Sayed election party during his more than 11-hour election night livestream on Twitch.

"You literally called the dude a f--king terrorist for months on end, and like, called him a sexist, misogynist terrorist, bad candidate, fake doctor, when he has like two f--king degrees, and now you're gonna sit there and be like 'well, you know, you really gotta come to me now' — like what are you talking about? Do you want to f--king win or not?" he continued in his expletive-ridden ravings.

El-Sayed was expected to sail to victory over Rep. Haley Stevens, but eked out the narrowest of victories after a nail-biter race in which he came out on top by fewer than 20,000 votes.

Piker, a streamer with more than 6 million followers across multiple platforms, strongly supported El-Sayed and was a regular fixture on the campaign trail.

He's known for repugnant viewpoints like claiming the US "deserved 9/11" and saying that it "doesn't matter if rapes happened on Oct. 7," referring to the Hamas terror attack against Israel that killed more than 1,200 people.

El-Sayed was backed by leftists like Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) in a race billed by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee as "Ground Zero in the battle for the future of the Democratic Party."

He will face Republican Mike Rogers in what is a must-win race for Democrats.

DSA routs 8th rep.

DETROIT — Rep. Shri Thanedar was taken down Tuesday by Democratic Socialists of America-backed Michigan state Rep. Donavan McKinney in the latest primary victory for the progressive left.

Thanedar, 71, became the eighth incumbent House Democrat to lose a primary this cycle. The India-born congressman was seeking a third term representing Michigan's deep-blue 13th District, which includes part of Detroit.

McKinney will be favored to win the general election in November against GOP long-shot T.P. Nykoriak. ***Ryan King***

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

Iranian prez left 'in dark'

رهبر معظم انقلاب

OUT OF SIGHT: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (below) reportedly had an odd rendezvous in a dark car with a man who he was told was Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei (right).

Getty Images; Zuma

Doubts shady meet with 'supreme leader'

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

WASHINGTON — Iran's mysterious, "probably gay" supreme leader is so elusive that even his own president isn't convinced he met him in a bizarre one-on-one in the back of a dark car.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian was whisked to a secret location in Tehran, shoved into the back seat of a dark car with blacked-out windows and told he was sitting next to Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei — except he never actually saw the man, according to a bombshell report from Iran International.

The cloak-and-dagger meeting reportedly lasted a few minutes, not the cozy 2½-hour sit-down Pezeshkian bragged about publicly in May. It is unclear when the reported meeting occurred.

Sources told Iran International that Khamenei's office agreed to the meeting only after Pezeshkian repeatedly begged for one and threatened to quit. Even then, the supreme leader refused to meet at his official residence, as is custom.

Instead, the president was driven to a secret location in Tehran, pulled from his own security convoy and placed in the back of a commercial vehicle.

The cabin was kept so dark the two men couldn't see each other — with guards barring Pezeshkian from shaking the supreme leader's hand.

The situation reportedly irritated Pezeshkian, who asked aides whether the person beside him had actually been Khamenei, because all he'd heard was someone talking in the dark.

The president has asked for another meeting, this time face-to-face at the leader's residence. So far, he's been turned down.

Pezeshkian has since offered to step down again, complaining that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had seized near-total control over running the country, according to reports.

Iranian media reported this week that Khamenei formally granted IRGC Commander in Chief Ahmad Vahidi the ultimate authority on decision-making, sidelining Pezeshkian's administration.

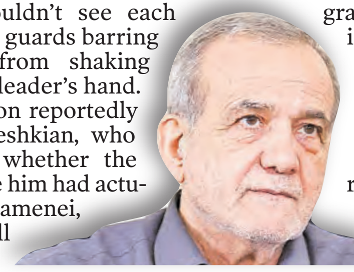
Pezeshkian's strange rendezvous with the supreme leader only adds to the growing mystery surrounding Khamenei, who was described as "probably gay" in a briefing for President Trump early in the war.

Gone silent

Khamenei has effectively vanished from public view since taking power roughly five months ago. Not a single verified photo, video or audio recording of Iran's new ruler has been released. All his statements have come in written form, and he didn't even attend his father's funeral last month.

Iran's state-aligned media has tried to explain away his silence.

The Hamshahri newspaper claimed this week that foreign intelligence agencies could pinpoint Khamenei's location from something as simple as background noise in an audio recording.



New 60-day strait pact 'nearly reached'

The US, Iran and Oman are nearing a deal that would temporarily reopen the Strait of Hormuz without any tolls — with an agreement expected to be announced as soon as today, according to a report.

The deal under consideration would establish a 60-day agreement between Oman and Iran for shipping in the strategic strait, US and regional sources told Axios.

During those 60 days, the US and Iran would return to the negotiating table to hammer out nuclear concessions and try to find a "permanent solution" for the strait, a regional source told The Post.

Until then, inbound shipping traffic into the Persian Gulf would go through a northern lane through Iranian waters while traffic to the Arabian Sea would take a southern lane through Omani waters, Iran's foreign ministry said Monday.

Once the center lane is safe for travel, it will be opened to inbound and outbound traffic under a future permanent agreement between Iran and Oman, sources told Axios.

No tolls or fees would be charged during the 60-day period — which can be extended.

Patrick Reilly and Caitlin Doornbos

Regime kills 56 to stifle dissent

The bloodthirsty Iranian regime has executed at least 56 people on dubious national security charges since March, according to the United Nations — which blasted Iran for the "deeply troubling" practice.

Twenty-seven of the 56 were linked to the widespread January protests against the country's despotic regime and brutal treatment of its citizens.

Another roughly 100 people are believed to currently be awaiting execution on similar charges, according to the BBC.

The barbaric executions — which are often carried out in public — are part of a widespread tactic "to instill fear among the population and suppress dissent," UN human rights chief Volker Türk said in a recent scathing statement.

"Such punishment has no place in our world," Türk said.

The chief also raised alarm about the judicial process which leads to capital punishment — saying trials and due process were nearly non-existent in Iran.

"Several executions have reportedly been carried out in public. Some have reportedly been carried out only weeks after arrest," Türk said. "Twelve defendants were reportedly sentenced to death following a single three-hour closed-door hearing."

Iran is notorious for its use of executions — which it metes out so liberally that the country is the second-most prolific user of capital punishment on Earth.

In 2026, a stunning 2,159 people were executed in Iran, Amnesty International reported.

That was the highest number of people executed in the country since 1981 and came during 12 months of widespread public dissent over the Iranian government's treatment of its people.

Alex Oliveira

JARED ISAACMAN
NASA big's stellar idea.

'Space' for data centers

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman has floated a futuristic solution to the furious public debate in America over data-center construction: Just put them in outer space.

Isaacman, who has helmed the space agency since December 2025, said on Wednesday's episode of "Pod Force One" that placing the data centers in space could allow for them "to draw on the free solar power" from fusion reactors that would also be operable outside of Earth's atmosphere.

Not to mention it would quiet down those noisy NIMBYs in your neighborhood who don't want new data centers built near them, he suggested.

"Elon [Musk] and others in the industry are like, 'Let's take the data centers that no one likes in your backyard' — it seems like there's a lot of consensus on that — 'and put them into space where they won't bother anyone,' " the NASA chief noted.

"And by the way, it's not going to mess with your power bill because we're going to draw on the free solar power from our fusion reactor that's just sitting out there," he added. "Fantastic idea." *Josh Christenson*

IN LIU OF FAIR PLAY

Instagram/@jaylinn_liuu

Skater's trans bro a HS *girls* track star

SIS GOLD, BRO BOLD: Jaylin Liu — born Joshua before transitioning to female and the sibling of Olympic figure skating star Alysa Liu — is winning big competing against girls in high school sports.

By ROSS O'KEEFE

The brother of American Olympic figure skating champion Alysa Liu is a transgender athlete dominating California high school girls' athletic events.

Jaylin Liu was formerly named Joshua before transitioning and identifying as female, according to Reduxx.

He now competes in track and field, girls' varsity basketball and ultimate frisbee for both Albany HS and El Cerrito HS in California.

He's made his biggest impact in track and field, taking home every first-place finish in 200-meter and 400-meter girls' races that Albany HS has entered this year.

Jaylin recently took home the top spot at the Tri-County Athletic League Finals in May.

'Opposing forces'

He also took eight separate first-place finishes at seasonal meets in 2025 and secured a gold medal in the 2025 Tri-County Athletic League Frosh-Soph Championship 200-meter race.

He has been praised for his "extremely dominant performance on the field," according to Reduxx.

Women's sports advocacy organizations have pushed back against Jaylin's participation in girls' sports.

"The Liu family represents two opposing forces: the pinnacle of excellence in female sports and, at the same time, a profound threat to the integrity of those sports," Marshi Smith of the Independent Council on Women's Sports said.

"Alysa's achievements are the result of years of dedication and hard work beginning in childhood. By contrast, her brother's recent personal ambitions threaten to undermine the same developmental pathways that so many girls depend on to blaze their own trails to greatness."

A representative from HeCheated, "a centralized archive documenting the impact and magnitude of male participation in female-only sports categories and events," said Jaylin's participation in female sports puts Alysa in a difficult spot.

"Rules allowing boys into girls' sports often put female athletes who may have male family members, like Alysa, in an impossible position where their loyalties are torn and they are forced to choose between supporting female athletes and fairness in athletics or a beloved family member who they love," the spokesperson said.

"Firm rules protecting the female category puts the responsibility of saying no to these boys on athletic officials rather than young women and girls."

Jaylin watched his sister, Alysa, at the 2026 Winter Olympics with their father Arthur Liu.

Alysa, who currently attends UCLA, won two gold medals in the women's individual singles and the team event.

Prez safe as FAA probes breach

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating why air-traffic controllers at Washington's Reagan National Airport did not stop flights Tuesday when President Trump's helicopter took off from the nearby White House lawn, as required by safety protocols.

The airport is located fewer than five miles from the executive mansion and air traffic is supposed to be stopped whenever the president takes to the skies to ensure "standard separation" — enough distance between aircraft to avoid the risk of a collision. The FAA said Trump was never in danger.

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the probe.

Trump's Marine One chopper crew repeatedly tried to contact the airport's control tower. The helicopter lifted off from the Ellipse at 2:33 p.m. to take Trump to Joint Base Andrews, where he boarded Air Force One to go to Los Angeles.

One minute later, tracking data showed an American Airlines flight left the airport.

"There was momentary loss of separation," the FAA told The Post. *Emily Goodin*

Gringos: Teach Spanish

You're in America now, so speak Spanish.

More than half of Americans believe it is "very" important for children to learn Spanish in school — as the number of households who use it as a first language surges, a new survey shows.

Some 53% of those surveyed said it was "extremely or very" important for US schools to offer Spanish classes, the most of any non-English language on the list, according to the study from Pew Research Center released on Monday.

Spanish is the second-most-common language spoken in US homes after English, with 45 million people 5 and over using it, Census figures show. *Anthony Blair*

MOMMY & CLYDE

HOW'D SHE GET

LIEL LEIBOVITZ

When woke Dems take the wheel

THERE'S a classic joke comedians love telling each other, about a family that walks into a talent agent's office and proceeds to do filthy, vile, unspeakable things to each other.

The talent agent watches in horror, then asks the family what their act is called.

The punch line? They call themselves The Aristocrats.

Make that The Democrats: The party that used to run on mild stuff like abolishing the police and setting murderers and rapists free in the name of "social justice" has taken chaos to a whole new level, showing us what happens when you promote incompetent freaks whose only distinction is excelling at parroting the party's lunatic ideology.

Case study: Jennifer Lackard.

Despite — or maybe precisely because of — having zero experience in policing, Democrat-run Mount Vernon hired Lackard as its deputy police commissioner, a fancy title that came with a $138,219 annual paycheck.

She was tasked with running the department's "Wellness Unit," a squad devoted to the Democrat mantra that criminals aren't evil or depraved but simply misunderstood souls who would abandon their dastardly ways if only some compassionate person treated their emotional boo-boos with a hot cup of cocoa rather than a long, hard prison sentence.

The fact that Lackard's husband did time in federal prison for dealing heroin, and that her son was a gangbanger who routinely ran into violent trouble, seemed to give none of her bosses any pause.

Experience be damned

And Lackard rewarded their trust by breaking bad, giving us all proof — grand, theatrical, irrefutable proof — of the very real danger we all face when Democrats reject common sense and treat government as one big jobs program, hiring unvetted but loyal hustlers to key roles, experience and competence be dammed.

Lackard is now in custody for helping her 20-year-old son attempt to assassinate a rival.

According to the indictment, she coached her kid in the fine art of timing a hit job just right, accompanied him — irony alert! — to the Bronx Hall of Justice where he attempted to off his gang rival, and then drove the getaway car to boot.

Not even our most clinically progressive politicians — thank the Lord — have yet gone quite so far as Lackard, who chose to turn public office into a dime-store remake of "The Godfather."

But take a quick look at the workings of the Democratic Party machine, and it's not too hard to understand how a disastrous lackey like Lackard could rise so fast and so far.

By constantly championing measures like cashless bail that make the streets less safe, by coddling criminals with "restorative justice" rather than the real kind, and by promoting boisterous activists rather than capable officials with proven records, Democrats put us all at risk.

The same maddening scenario plays out wherever the party's in power.

Instead of policing, we get progressive propaganda.

Instead of leaders, we get zealots and kooks.

Instead of safety, we get more incitement, more violence and more brokenness.

'Embarrassed'

Don't take my word for it: Just ask Damon Jones, publisher of Black Westchester Magazine.

"I am embarrassed as a black law enforcement officer to see the dysfunction in a city that has a black mayor, a majority black city council, a majority black police department that we have to see continuing dysfunction and just foolery in an organization that should be so professional," Jones told The Post.

"Unfortunately, we see this with Democrats that they put people in positions — especially in law enforcement positions — that they shouldn't be there."

Amen to that.

Lackard may be the most recent — and most extreme — example, but the problem she embodies is all too prevalent and all too ominous.

It's time to root it out before we allow even more dangerous maniacs to get their hands on the levers of power.

Liel Leibovitz is editor at large for Tablet and senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.

By JOE MARINO, STEVEN VAGO
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

She wasn't just breaking the law — she was advocating against it.

The Westchester County police bigwig accused of chaperoning her gangbanger son to an attempted murder had spent years rubbing elbows with criminals, both through controversial inmate aid programs she founded and in her former marriage to a drug-peddling ex-con.

Somehow, Jennifer Lackard landed a cushy job as a deputy police commissioner in Mount Vernon even as she looked the other way while her gangbanger son started wreaking havoc in the Big Apple.

Lackard, 49, is now facing attempted murder charges for allegedly driving her troublemaking son to a drive-by gang shooting outside a Bronx court last month, with her ex-con husband along for the ride.

The disgraced and newly fired cop was indicted in the brazen June 29 shooting, along with her son, 20-year-old Chase Lackard — a reputed member of the "Slutty Gang" once charged for pointing a gun at NYPD cops — and her drug-peddling husband, James Lackard, 47, who remains on the run from police.

Qualified for the job?

Jennifer Lackard was hired in 2020 to head up the Mount Vernon Police Department's Wellness Unit by Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, a position reportedly created for her. She had no real law enforcement experience but instead had a resume that showed she worked in inmate reentry programs and as an advocate for accused criminals.

Lackard landed the gig, which carried a $125,000 base salary this year, with records showing she had never been arrested herself.

In a statement Wednesday, Patterson-Howard said Lackard underwent a "rigorous background check" that included a check of prior employment, fingerprinting, financial disclosers, medical clearance and a criminal background check — and was deemed qualified.

"There was no information that disqualified her from employment," the mayor said. "As part of the hiring process, information regarding her husband's prior criminal history was disclosed and reviewed and deemed not to be disqualifying her for her civilian position."

She cited Lackard's 15 years of experience in mental health and substance abuse services.

"No employer can predict future personal conduct," she added. "Mount Vernon has faced multiple challenges before and we have always responded with accountability, transparency, and resilience. We remain committed to those principles as this matter proceeds through the criminal justice system."

Sources said Mount Vernon cops joined Lackard at a Bronx

MOMMY & CLYDE

AWAY WITH IT?

James Keivom for NY Post; WABC-TV; Facebook; NYPD

Cop big ma busted with gang son had no law experience

CRIME FAM: Prosecutors say Chase Lackard fired at a gang rival from inside a car June 29 with his Mount Vernon deputy police commish mom, Jennifer Lackard (right with ex-con husband James Lackard), behind the wheel.

hospital after Chase Lackard was shot in the chest during a confrontation on a city bus in 2023 in a reputed gang-related shooting.

Stain on troubled city

The Lackards' arrest Tuesday marks the latest stain on the troubled suburban city, which has seen two sitting mayors arrested while in office and a string of police department controversies in recent years, according to lohud.com.

Several Mount Vernon cops have been in hot water this year, including a bust in April that accused one officer of stealing more than $800,000 from an out-of-state company. One month earlier, another cop on the force was charged with larceny and allegedly tipping off a Suffolk County gang member.

The two mayors — Ernie Davis and Richard Thomas — were both forced to leave office after being charged with federal tax evasion and state grand larceny charges, respectively.

Records show that Jennifer and James Lackard in 2007 founded Ivy House Center for Self-Sufficiency in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a government-funded nonprofit program that counseled criminal defendants with mental health illness or substance abuse addictions.

Jennifer Lackard served as CEO while her then-husband sat on the advisory board until 2009.

After shutting down that program, she moved to New York and founded, Re-Entry Link LLC in The Bronx, where she also served on Community Board 9 before landing the Mount Vernon job.

On June 29, prosecutors said Chase Lackard left Bronx court and hopped into a waiting gray Chrysler Pacifica with both his parents inside, changed clothes and the family circled the block.

Eventually, prosecutors said he spotted his intended target and fired from the window of the SUV, with his mom allegedly then driving him back home.

Additional reporting by Larry Celona

Shoot minutes after court

The gangbanger son of a Westchester County police bigwig had a Bronx court date just minutes before he allegedly opened fire on a rival — with his cop mom and ex-con dad as getaway drivers, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Chase Lackard, 20, faced a judge on a 2024 gun rap just 20 minutes before the alleged June 29 drive-by gang shooting — with help from his mom, disgraced Mount Vernon Deputy Police Commissioner Jennifer Lackard, and drug-dealing dad James Lackard, according to prosecutors.

"He's captured on cameras running into this courthouse," Bronx Assistant District Attorney Keturah Ladd told the judge. "He had a court date and a court appearance on the third floor of this building."

Momma's boy Chase Lackard, a reputed member of the "Slutty Gang," was ordered held without bail. Jennifer Lackard, 49, a former member of Bronx Community Board 9, was hired in 2020 to run the suburban department's Wellness Unit, and was fired from the job after her arrest.

Also named in the Bronx indictment is her drug-dealing ex, James, who served 10 years in federal prison for peddling heroin in North Carolina — but remains on the lam.

The troublemaking son already had two open gun possession cases on his rap sheet before the shooting, one in Manhattan and the Bronx case he was in court for before the June 29 shooting. *Steven Vago*

MTA's machinations

Vending devices placed in subway newsstand spots

William Farrington

INHUMAN TOUCH: A straphanger makes his selection at a bank of vending machines in the Second Avenue F-line station. The MTA is installing the machines in station spaces that once held manned businesses.

By KATHERINE DONLEVY
and GREG CARLTON

The machines are making change.

Massive vending kiosks are filling some of the dark corners of the subway stations left empty by the once-ubiquitous newsstands, leaving New Yorkers to mourn the bygone days of human interaction.

The MTA unveiled three sprawling and brightly illuminated Coca-Cola machines in the underground last week to kick off a new program aimed at tackling the vacancy problem in its retail spaces.

The machines are in long-deserted shops like the one at the Second Avenue F train spot, but it didn't stop commuters like Emmanuelle Nyanid from waxing nostalgic about the salesman that once occupied the space.

"In general, I feel like New York is already dehumanizing, in a way," Nyanid, 18, told The Post, although she admitted the vending machines are "cool."

"I've lived here for 10 years. People don't really wanna talk to you. This is perfect for those New Yorkers."

More are coming

Matching sets can also be found at the 23rd Street R and W station and the 116th Street 6-train station. Dozens more will be installed at 23 more stations in the coming months and into 2027, the MTA announced.

The plan had been in the works for years, with the transit agency initially seeking vendors back in 2023 after recognizing that the classic grab-and-go model was no longer as popular as it once had been.

"The robust number of newsstands of decades past went by the wayside," David Florio, the MTA chief of real estate transactions and operations officer, explained to The Post, adding that vending machine operators initially approached the MTA.

"And as you know, a vending machine takes less labor than a walk-in retail unit, so we decided to try that model out."

The vacancy rate currently stands at 26%, with Florio confirming that it never recovered from the pandemic.

There are about 180 tenanted locations throughout the city, ranging from grab-and-go to full-blown restaurants and art installations, and even new kiosks that are currently being constructed in Times Square and Grand Central.

The machines are being put in low-demand retail spaces that have struggled to maintain tenants and have been configured so that they do not protrude and take up precious platform space.

"They're basically repurposing spaces that otherwise would have remained dark," said Florio.

Straphangers so far are split on more machines entering the subway system.

"It makes me sad. Growing up here, I appreciated the culture," said bartender Nico Jung, 22.

"Newsstands — there's people behind the stands. It gives them work to go to every day. I enjoy a person-to-person interaction over sticking a coin in a machine . . . I grabbed a bottle of water this morning, and I bought it from a real person."

City rat sightings lowest since 2020

The Big Apple is winning the War on Rats.

Reported sightings of the scrappy scavengers are on track to hit their lowest numbers since the pandemic for the first half of 2026, as major anti-rodent measures first taken under the Adams administration are seeing positive results, city data shows.

There were around 9,900 calls for rats in the first seven months of the year — marking the first time reports have fallen below the 10,000 threshold during that time frame since 2020, according to 311 data.

That's also a 22% plummet from how many sightings were reported to the city in the first half of last year, an incredible drop former Mayor Eric Adams celebrated as a major win in the ongoing war he declared in 2022.

"When rats sighting go down, they don't go down in just one or two days. The plan was simply to stop feeding them. We did a series of things like containerization. We were very focused. We are now seeing the results of several years," Adams told The Post on Wednesday.

Reports for "rat sightings" during the seven-month time frame have been falling each year since 2024, according to the data, first reported by Bloomberg.

These sightings hit a peak in 2022, when 16,230 reports of squeaky pests were called in between January and August, prompting Adams to officially declare the "war" that fall.

Programs like the Empire Bins have apparently been among the most productive, with rat sightings dropping in the few neighborhoods that have installed the massive on-street trash cans.

Manhattan Community Board 8 has seen 35% fewer rats since the bins were installed last summer.

*Katherine Donlevy
and Greg Carlton*

Suicide law now in effect

New York's controversial assisted-suicide law went into effect Wednesday, allowing terminally ill adults to request life-ending medication from their doctors.

The Medical Aid in Dying Act, signed by Gov. Hochul in February, had faced blowback from religious institutions, including the Catholic Church, which called it an example of "throwaway culture" that disvalues life.

"This new law signals our government's abandonment of its most vulnerable citizens, telling people who are sick or disabled that suicide in their case is not only acceptable, but is encouraged by our elected leaders," the New York State Catholic Conference said in a statement.

Under the law, adults with six months or less to live will have the option to receive lethal meds from their doctors.

The self-administered euthanasia meds are only legal for patients who are 18 years or older and have a terminal prognosis that would likely end their life within six months.

"Terminally ill New Yorkers . . . deserve the right to die with dignity," said Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal, who sponsored the bill's 2025 iteration as a state senator.

Hannah Fierick

Deadly Bx. bldg. blast

A Bronx apartment building erupted in flames after a massive explosion Wednesday afternoon — with one person killed and at least 14 injured in the five-alarm blaze, the FDNY said.

Two people sustained life-threatening injuries and three firefighters were seriously injured in the blast that rocked the third floor of the five-story apartment building at 374 E. 209th St., according to the FDNY.

Some 300 FDNY firefighters and EMS responded to the scene, according to FDNY Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore.

*David DeTurris
and Daniel Cody*

JOHN JONES
Brooklyn fire suspect.

Church 'arsonist' nabbed

A firebug suspected of torching a landmarked 173-year-old Brooklyn church was busted when a cop spotted him shoplifting a turkey sandwich and doughnuts from a Midtown CVS, sources said.

John Jones, 24, was hit with a federal arson rap after he was picked up allegedly trying to swipe the food and a Coke from the Broadway store at about 1:39 a.m., sources said.

An off-duty NYPD cop working security took Jones into custody and ran his name through the system — finding he was wanted for allegedly destroying the South Bushwick Reformed Church, sources said.

The NYPD, FDNY, federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York had all been eyeing Jones as the alleged arsonist behind a three-alarm fire that burned down the historic church on June 19, they said. *Joe Marino*

Zo booed on Staten Is.

Mayor Mamdani was battered by boos before he quickly exited the stage on Staten Island Tuesday night at one of the Big Apple's pro-police celebrations.

Hizzoner gave some abbreviated remarks at the Midland Beach boardwalk for the NYPD's 43rd Patrol Borough National Night Out Against Crime, the Staten Island Advance reported.

He drew loud jeers and a tirade of profanities from some attendees who shouted for him to leave.

Ella Morrison

BRONX BAT-TERED

Reuters Connect

YANKEE DOODLE DANGER: Stephanie Duluc (below and right) is suing the Yankees for $10 million after getting hit by a bat swung by José Ramírez (left) in June.

Facebook / SOMOS Community Care

YES Network

Fan hit by flying lumber sues Yanks

By PETER SENZAMICI

A healthcare executive suffered a traumatic brain injury in the luxury seats of Yankee Stadium when a player accidentally swung his bat into the stands and whacked her in the noggin, a new $10 million lawsuit claims.

Stephanie Duluc, 37, chief of staff at the Bronx-based SOMOS Community Care, was taking in the June 2 Yankees game from fourth-row seats behind home plate when Cleveland's José Ramírez launched his bat into her section during the fifth inning, the suit said.

Duluc's employer owns season tickets in the section.

They're some of the priciest seats in the House That Ruth Built — and also some of the most dangerous — with required netting that's supposed to shield fans from foul balls and errant bats, the court filing said

"It is the one location where the law has long required a stadium operator to provide adequate protective screening," according to the suit.

But Ramírez lost his bat midswing and the protective netting did nothing to stop the high-speed bat, according to her Manhattan federal lawsuit.

The suit claims the netting was "significantly lower" than adjacent sections, leaving an "unprotected opening."

The bat hit Duluc "with such force that it knocked her from her seat and violently threw her to the ground, causing her to sustain severe and permanent injuries," her suit claims.

As the terrifying moment aired live, announcers gasped as they noted the bat had cleared the screen and flattened a spectator.

Previous suits tossed

"Bat goes one way, ball goes another," Yankees play-by-play announcer Michael Kay said during the YES Network broadcast, according to a video clip of the game. "Bat goes into the stands — over the screen, too."

"There's a woman who got hit; she's on her feet now," he adds as cameras show Duluc holding her head.

Duluc claims the blow caused a traumatic brain injury, concussion, severe light sensitivity and permanent damage to her neck and hands — leaving her completely "unable to return to her professional duties."

Despite the alleged injuries, Duluc appeared on PIX11's Monica Makes It Happen in late July — less than two weeks before the lawsuit was filed.

During the short televised segment, she appeared on camera under studio lighting to discuss a recent event sponsored by her company at Fordham University.

When asked if the TV spot contradicted her injury claims, her attorney Jon L. Norinsberg said "not at all."

The Yankees declined to comment.

Duluc's lawsuit will likely face a high-stakes legal battle over the century-old "Baseball Rule," a doctrine that typically exempts teams and owners from liability over foul ball, bat or other similar injuries.

That rule helped toss numerous other injury suits brought against the Bronx Bombers, including injuries from foul balls and flying bats.

Additional reporting by Kyle Schnitzer

MAM'S STORE

City Hall can't answer basic questions

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IN THE DETAILS: Mayor Mamdani last month touts his planned 30% discount on essential goods at city-owned grocery stores — but an official Wednesday admitted they don't know how that will work.

By CRAIG McCARTHY

The Mamdani administration left scores of questions unanswered Wednesday about the mayor's plan to open five city-owned grocery stores — exposing major gaps in the taxpayer-backed undertaking.

An Economic Development Corporation official, during an online info session, was forced to admit to prospective partners that the city had yet to figure out simple logistics, including how to reimburse operators or pay store employees.

The EDC official even confessed the city didn't know how it would calculate the cost of the supermarkets' signature "core basket" of essential goods, which Mayor Mamdani has said would be sold at 30% "below typical retail prices."

"The city does not have the expertise or experience in running stores, and so we're looking to start to identify operators to integrate with us," said Jamie Horton, vice president of strategic initiatives and business operations for EDC, a quasi-public nonprofit funded by the city.

Horton fielded questions from about a dozen attendees during the 45-minute Zoom call about the EDC's 44-page "request for proposals" seeking bids from prospective operators to run the shops, which are estimated to cost $70 million to build out.

'Foolish investment'

Industry experts have panned Mamdani's proposal as half-baked, saying the young socialist's campaign vow to bring New Yorkers cheaper groceries via five publicly funded, privately operated supermarkets didn't make sense in the real world.

"There are big unknowns," said Avi Kaner, the former owner of Morton Williams. "The way this [RFP] is structured is so risky and the reward is so low, it would literally be a foolish investment."

Kaner, who wasn't at the Wednesday morning meeting, added: "The whole concept is foolish because it does not achieve the goal."

"If the goal is to reduce the cost of groceries citywide, you don't do it by adding five small stores. If you want to lower the cost of groceries, make it cheaper to do business in the city."

Asked by one possible operator about how the market rate of groceries would be calculated, in order to then slash prices by nearly a third, the EDC offered up a word salad response.

"There's a consideration of access to market data, access to . . . or sorry, a methodology built on looking at kind of broader market data if the operator has existing stores," Horton said, before admitting the methodology wasn't complete.

"The 30%, the exact retail benchmark that we're setting against is, again, to be developed in the exact methodology," he said later, when pressed.

Who pays for discount?

While operators will be spared having to pay property taxes, the EDC conceded it didn't know if that would be enough to offset the cost of the discounted goods.

"How will the city determine if the capital rent and tax relief is not enough for the operator to provide a 30% reduction of core basket costs or is the city guaranteeing the offering of that 30%?" one potential vendor pressed.

Horton said he didn't know, and noted the EDC expected to learn during the RFP process whether the city would need to cough up more subsidies.

"So the RFP asks respondents to estimate the discount level that could be provided through just the capital rent and tax relief," Horton said.

Blakeman: Turn your backs on the mayor

Attendees at this year's 9/11 memorial service should turn their backs on Mayor Mamdani, GOP gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman said Wednesday, stopping short of calling on Hizzoner not to attend the ceremony entirely.

Blakeman (above), who lost his nephew in the south tower on Sept. 11, 2001, revealed at an Albany press conference he plans to turn away from the divisive lefty mayor, and said he thinks families of victims are right to call on Mamdani to stay home.

"I would equate this to a wake. You don't go to a wake if you're not welcome," the Nassau County executive told reporters.

"I think it's completely appropriate if family members ask him not to come, but if he does come I think there's a respectful and peaceful way to protest that and I would suggest that people turn their back on the mayor," Blakeman said.

He said Mamdani's refusal to condemn anti-Israel slogans promoting radical Islamic terror movements, like "globalize the intifada," disqualify him from the somber ritual, this year marking the 25th anniversary of the attacks.

"He's not welcome there because he has yet to say anything in opposition to the global intifada. As a matter of fact, it seems like he supports that phrase, which is part of the reason why we had the tragedy we had on 9/11," Blakeman said.

Mamdani says he plans to attend the ceremony, despite the pleas of some families that he stay away.

"I will proudly honor the families, the survivors, the first responders forever impacted by that horrific terror attack," the mayor said this week. *Vaughn Golden*

PLAN IS BANANAS

Getty Images

"And then if that discount level is less than 30%, we would ask respondents to estimate how much additional operational subsidy they would require to provide that 30% discount."

What about wages?

Horton was asked a number of detailed questions about how the city would account for unknown variables that could drive up costs — or how it planned to pay out the operator to cover potential losses.

"If whole costs spike mid-month — e.g., produce after a weather event, delayed delivery — does the operator absorb the margin loss or is there a subsidy true-up mechanism?" one person asked.

But again, the EDC had no answer.

"This is, again, one of those issues that we would work with the operator and selected operator kind of through the program development and operator agreement to work through that," Horton said.

Another attendee asked: "Does EDC intend to set wages or wage ranges? If so, are those currently known?"

But Horton kicked the can, saying "we can provide more detail in the fall Q&A," referring to another upcoming meeting.

The RFP also calls for workers to get a share of the profits, but the EDC had no answers on how that revenue sharing would work.

cmccarthy@nypost.com

Ackman slams policy 'disaster'

By ARIEL ZILBER

Mayor Mamdani will bring "disaster" to the Big Apple if he succeeds in implementing his far-left economic agenda, billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman warned in a new interview.

Ackman, one of Wall Street's most prominent conservative voices, argued that New York's affordability crisis stems from years of bad public policy — not capitalism — and warned that "socialism is a disaster."

"Watch what happens to New York City if Mamdani succeeds in implementing these plans," Ackman (below) told Fortune on Wednesday.

The warning comes as tensions between Mamdani and New York's business establishment have intensified.

Hizzoner this week dismissed the entire advisory board of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, removing executives tied to Blackstone, Citigroup, the Real Estate Board of New York and several major real estate firms.

The nonprofit has long relied on private-sector relationships to raise money for city programs, including more than $100 million for families of 9/11 rescue workers and $54.5 million during the COVID pandemic.

City Hall said Mamdani plans to install a new board that will put people "directly impacted" by city policies in the rooms where decisions are made.

Ackman on Wednesday singled out Mamdani's proposal to freeze rents on nearly 1 million stabilized apartments, arguing the policy would discourage investment and worsen the housing shortage.

Housing costs are "so high because left-wing mayors have made it very difficult for developers to build here, and Mamdani, by freezing rents, is just going to make the problem worse," Ackman told Fortune.

"If you make it hard to build where people want to live and you don't let landlords recover renovation costs, they'll pull units off the market," he added.

"That's what happened in New York — about 60,000 units are off the market because renovation costs can't be recovered under rent regulations."

Job creators

Ackman castigated Mamdani for targeting wealthy captains of industry and finance titans such as Ken Griffin, the Citadel boss who publicly clashed with the mayor over his newly enacted pied-à-terre tax.

Griffin threatened to reduce investment in New York after Mamdani filmed a social-media video touting the levy in front of the hedge-fund manager's Central Park South penthouse. "You want people like Ken Griffin locating Citadel here — spending $250 million on an apartment, because that purchase makes a building economically viable, which creates construction jobs and brings in wealthy residents who pay taxes," Ackman said.

Despite Griffin leaving open the possibility of cutting down his footprint in the Big Apple, the CEO of Vornado Realty Trust announced this week that it will continue with plans to build a $4.5 billion skyscraper at 350 Park Ave. that will house Citadel's offices.

Agents probed Don after Comey ax

By EMILY GOODIN

Getty Images

HE GOT FED UP: President Trump greets then-FBI Director James Comey at the White House in 2017 just months before the commander in chief booted Comey over then-rumored probes of the president.

FBI TURNED UP HEAT ON PREZ

WASHINGTON — The FBI opened an investigation into whether President Trump was "wittingly or unwittingly" acting as a Russian agent after he fired then-Director James Comey on May 9, 2017, according to documents released by the White House on Wednesday.

The probe, called Oxferd Comma, grew out of Crossfire Hurricane, the bureau's probe into whether Trump's 2016 campaign colluded with the Kremlin to get Trump elected as the 45th president.

"Based on the facts and circumstances provided to date, the FBI believes that opening this investigation is the least intrusive method to address the serious national security risk posed by the activities alleged," one of the declassified bureau memos shows.

The Trump White House initially cited Comey's handling of the investigation into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email server as the reason for his dismissal, but it was later revealed the president fired Comey because he wouldn't publicly state that Trump was not a target of Crossfire Hurricane.

The May 16, 2017, memo opening Oxford Comma was approved by then-FBI General Counsel James A. Baker and Bill Priestap, assistant director of the bureau's counterintelligence division.

Investigating a 'threat'

The probe was meant to "determine if President Trump is or was directed by, controlled by, and/or coordinated activities with, the Russian Federation in a manner constituting a threat to the national security of the United States and/or a violation of federal criminal statutes," the memo said.

"In addition, this investigation will also seek to determine whether President Trump and others yet to be named obstructed and/or conspiracy to obstruct any associated FBI investigation."

Trump was not under personal investigation for collusion with Russia during the 2016 campaign, but his firing of Comey raised questions about possible obstruction of justice, which triggered an investigation headed by then-special counsel Robert Mueller, a former FBI director.

Contemporaneous messages indicate that some FBI officials had misgivings about continuing to investigate claims of collusion in the 2016 presidential election after many leads had been exhausted.

"I hesitate in part because of my gut sense and concern there's no big there there," wrote then-Deputy Assistant Director Pete Strzok to FBI special counsel Lisa Page in a May 19, 2017, text message.

But the new records could serve as fodder for an investigation by DOJ Counselor to the Attorney General Joe diGenova, according to former Just the News editor in chief John Solomon.

Solomon, currently serving in the Trump administration on a task force focused on election integrity, announced the files' release on X.

Oxferd Comma was closed on April 9, 2019, with no charges being filed against Trump.

New CDC director installed

The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Dr. Erica Schwartz as the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, giving the Atlanta-based public-health agency its first full-time leader in nearly a year.

Schwartz was confirmed in a 51-44 party-line vote.

The 54-year-old will become the 22nd leader of the CDC, which is responsible for protecting Americans from public-health threats.

Schwartz will inherit the CDC as it faces the largest foodborne illness outbreak in recent years, the worst US measles resurgence in 30 years and an international Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

Schwartz will be the first permanent CDC director since Susan Monarez was fired by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. last year — just a month into her tenure — after arguments over vaccine policy.

President Trump previously nominated two other picks after Monarez was fired, but withdrew their names before hearings and voting even began.

The CDC has been hit with more than 3,000 layoffs and resignations since Trump entered his second administration. *Ally Goelz*

Kid fentanyl study shock

A shocking number of American eighth-graders don't think fentanyl poses a great risk to their health, although the dangerous drug is the third-leading cause of child deaths.

Just 48% of 13- and 14-year-olds said taking the drug one or two times posed a great risk to their health in a July survey published in JAMA Network Open.

That means more than half of students polled didn't answer a clean "Yes" when asked if the drug was dangerous to their health, StudyFinds reported.

Students polled were drawn from various demographics. *Alex Oliveira*

Deadly new superbug spreading in US

A drug-resistant superbug dubbed an "urgent" threat by health officials has spread across nearly two dozen US states — and its highly generic symptoms make it difficult to spot.

The deadly fungus, known as Candida auris, has been reported in 23 states with more than 3,000 cases so far this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported — mostly in nursing homes and hospitals.

"The rapid emergence around the world and the speed of spread in the US is alarming," Susan Huang, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of California Irvine School of Medicine, told Healthline.com.

"The public should definitely be aware of this concern and how it may impact them or those they care about."

The superbug — which is estimated to have caused death in up to 60% people infected by it — is a type of yeast that enters the bloodstream and spreads throughout the body.

It spreads via contact with infected people or by touching an infected surface.

It has strains resistant to all types of medications, and has been labeled an "urgent antimicrobial resistance threat" by the CDC.

Symptoms depend on where the infection is located but tend to include chills, fever, fatigue — common complaints that can throw off doctors.

Other symptoms include low body temperature and high heart rate, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

Texas has had the most cases of the fungus this year with 706. None were reported in New York, but 166 cases were found in New Jersey. *Natalie O'Neill*

Miranda Devine

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Marx their words, don’t let ’em fool ya

Getty Images

THE ‘HATE AMERICA’ CAUCUS: Leftist Rep. Ilhan Omar (from left), Israel-hating influencer Hasan Piker and conspiracy-spouting Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate Francesca Hong rally for Hong’s political run.

ABDUL El-Sayed is the latest Islamo-socialist terrorist-sympathizer star of the Democrat Party, after squeaking to a win in the Michigan Senate primary Tuesday.

Although he underperformed his poll numbers and the predictions of his media boosters, the lockdown-loving health bureaucrat has accelerated the radical left’s conquest of the Democrat Party from within.

If El-Sayed can pull off a victory in November in the Midwest, in the swingiest of swing states, what will stop a Marxist heading for the White House?

This menacing hard-left takeover is disastrous for Democrats and frightening for America, but it is also a potential golden opportunity for the GOP — if they don’t screw it up, which is nowhere near certain.

El-Sayed has slyly distanced himself from his early roots in the Democratic Socialists of America faction of the party, and declares himself a “scientist” and not a socialist, but nobody is fooled, least of all the DSA.

Like his comrades, he has a vast trove of deleted social media posts expressing his true hard-left beliefs — including defunding the police (and its modern-day version of abolishing ICE) and prison abolition — as he tries to shapeshift into a harmless progressive palatable to the average fair-minded American fed up with politics as usual.

The level of deception skills involved in this metamorphosis has pundits praising him as a “political athlete” and likening him to Bill Clinton.

But his extremism is not hard to detect, no matter how flowery the language disguising it.

In his first speech Wednesday morning after claiming victory, he issued a veiled threat to Republican opponent Mike Rogers: “By the time we’re done, you are not going to have safe quarter [in Michigan] from people holding you accountable.”

Last year, after a terrorist attack on a synagogue and preschool in the Detroit suburb of West Bloomfield by a Lebanese-born Hezbollah sympathizer, El-Sayed said: “Hurt people do hurt people and the circumstances happening 6,000 miles away can affect the lives that we live here.”

When he revs up his base, he gives them the blood and guts they seem to crave: “When they go low, we don’t go high. We take them to the mud and choke them out.”

He may be more careful with his language these days but you can tell a man by the company he keeps.

El-Sayed enjoys a bromance with self-appointed DSA mascot and dog-torturing Twitch-streamer Hasan Piker, who once said America “deserved” the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and recently dressed up, unironically, as Mao Zedong, whom he calls “one of the great leaders of the world.”

Piker also has flirted with assassination fantasies, according to a video clip from last year doing the rounds of social media in which he is in on stage with Taylor Lorenz, the former New York Times journalist who wrote she felt “joy” at the murder of health-care CEO Brian Thompson allegedly by the “handsome . . . morally good” Luigi Mangione.

In the unverified video, Piker compliments her on her article about Mangione “and great video when you said ‘someone has to do it.’ ” The audience laughs at this allusion to assassination and Piker says, “See! When I say that, everyone knows exactly what it means, which shows there’s a lot of anger, a lot of resentment and untapped revolutionary potential, and it’s a great opportunity for organizing.”

Cocky candidate

Any normal candidate for a normal party would want nothing to do with such repellent views.

But like Mayor Mamdani, El-Sayed has campaigned with Piker and posted workout videos with him. El-Sayed was so cocky on election eve that he publicly celebrated with Piker at a pool party.

He also boasted he will beat Rogers by five points.

Even in Michigan, surely that kind of hubris won’t go down well in a general election.

Piker was also jubilantly counting his chickens before they were hatched at El-Sayed’s alcohol-free watch party Tuesday night: “This is just the beginning,” he crowed.

“It’s not just Michigan; it’s not just Wisconsin. We will hopefully continue this movement all across the United States of America.”

Ah, Wisconsin. When Rogers talks about the Democrat “crazy train” he will have to find room up front for Francesca Hong, the Dems’ Wisconsin gubernatorial favorite who faces a primary next week.

Like Piker and Mamdani and every other DSA stooge, she is now trying to distance herself from the radical beliefs that catapulted her to political prominence.

Among her pearls of wisdom, she has said she wants to abolish the police and Thanksgiving, that tipping is “racist,” and white people are so terrible that she can’t stand watching them eat but she unfortunately has “proximity to whiteness” due to the fact her son is half-white.

She also once issued a barely veiled death threat to President Trump. “About f---ing time we 86 Trump.”

The Luigi wing of the party has found its voice.

Democrats seem incapable of controlling the beast within.

A few hours after El-Sayed declared victory Wednesday, Democrat senators boycotted a Senate Judiciary hearing on the malign influence of the Muslim Brotherhood Network in America, claiming it to be an exercise in “Islamophobia.”

No wonder they are running a million miles, since El-Sayed’s father-in-law, who helped fund his campaign, has links to the Muslim Brotherhood as the former president of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and founding member of the Islamic Society of North America, which were named as unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation terrorism-financing trial.

Terror groups

Chapters of the Muslim Brotherhood have been declared terrorist organizations in the US, following the lead of Saudi Arabia, the UAE and El-Sayed’s parents’ homeland of Egypt.

El-Sayed and his wife met at the University of Michigan through the Muslim Students Association, which has been described as a “Muslim Brotherhood front.”

It will be up to Mike Rogers to convince Michigan voters that El-Sayed is unsuitable to be their senator.

Rogers is a strong candidate with genuine Michigander working-class roots, as a one-time auto assembly-line worker who went on to serve as a US Army lieutenant and then an FBI special agent in Chicago, investigating organized crime.

His track record through seven terms representing Michigan in Congress is positive, and as the former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee he was one of the strongest critics warning about the economic and national security threats posed by China, including its hollowing out of the middle class in the former industrial heartland of Michigan.

But the polls are tight and Rogers has his work cut out for him against a younger, silver-tongued foe fueled by a movement giddy about its newfound power.

He is also tied to Trump, whose poll numbers are sagging as an unpopular war drags on, and for whom Americans’ cost of living remains a sore point.

The president telling Fox News Tuesday night that he deserves an “A-plus” on the economy was not the right message for a sullen electorate.

A little humility would go a long way.

Quits Cambridge over ‘plagiarism’

UK prof copy and chased

By NATALIE O’NEILL

FAKE-ULTY MEMBER: Cambridge University professor Jason Arday, 41, resigned Wednesday after facing a wave of plagiarism rumors.

St Mary’s University

The Cambridge University professor accused of plagiarism and lying about his allegedly esteemed career resigned from the prestigious UK school Wednesday — as it launched an investigation into him.

Diversity posterboy Jason Arday, 41 — the youngest black man ever to hold a professorship at the lauded English university — insisted the sudden move should not “be mistaken for an acceptance of the narratives that have surrounded me,” as he blasted the bombshell claims.

“While criticism is an inevitable part of academic life, what I have experienced has gone far beyond scholarly disagreement,” he wrote in a post on the Good Law Project. “The relentless accusations, speculation and public commentary have taken a profound toll on me and on those I love.”

Arday, who said his resignation as a professor of sociology goes into effect immediately, faces investigation for allegedly lifting more than 100 passages in his dissertation and fudging his resume.

“[We have] begun an investigation following new information about Professor Arday’s academic qualifications and honorary appointments,” Cambridge University said in a statement Wednesday.

“Separately, there remains a number of ongoing complaints regarding academic misconduct, which are being handled in line with our Misconduct in Research policy,” it added.

The school has previously stood behind the professor, claiming he was a victim of a “vile campaign to undermine his credibility.”

Nathan Cofnas, a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University in Belgium, published a Substack article last month detailing several examples in which Arday’s doctoral dissertation appeared to be plagiarized.

Also ‘lied’ on resume

An analysis showed more than 100 passages in his thesis reportedly appeared to be similar to or lifted from the thesis of Brunel University student Paula Zwozdiak-Myers.

Arday then came under fire Tuesday for falsely claiming to have held three positions at academic institutions on his official biography page for Cambridge University.

Arday wrote in the bio that he’s a visiting professor at Ohio State University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion — though the school’s DEI office closed last year and administrators reportedly said they have no record of him as an employee.

Arday also claims he works as a visiting professor in the University of Glasgow’s School of Education but the school said he hasn’t held that position since leaving for Cambridge.

“Jason Arday was employed as Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Glasgow between 2021 and 2023. He left the University to take up his role as Professorial Chair at the University of Cambridge,” a University of Glasgow spokesperson told The Post.

Arday said his resignation from Cambridge was “simply the decision of someone who has reached the limits of what any person should reasonably be expected to endure.”

Arday — who says he’s autistic, epileptic and a former pro soccer player — admitted last week to a series of errors in his work, but has insisted he’s not a “liar and fantasist.”

Arday has also been accused of lying about his seemingly unbelievable list of personal accomplishments.

They include “running 30 marathons in just 35 days,” raising millions of dollars for charity, and playing professional soccer and snooker.

Arday has also said he has autism spectrum disorder and was nonverbal until age 11. He became Cambridge’s youngest black professor at age 37.

LI PTA big ’fesses to stealing $14G from group

A crooked Long Island PTA vice president admitted she stole more than $14,000 from the group and splurged at Lululemon and other stores, Suffolk County prosecutors said.

Hope Livingston, 50, pleaded guilty Tuesday to grand-larceny charges after soaking the Sag Harbor Elementary School Parent Teacher Association from July 2021 through June 2024, Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney said.

She’s expected to be forced to pay back $14,500.

“Stealing from a school’s PTA is not just a crime, it is a betrayal of our children and community,” Tierney said of Livingston, who also served as the PTA treasurer for a stretch.

Livingston had access to the PTA’s bank account through a debit card meant for PTA-related purchases — but instead racked up thousands in personal purchases on Amazon and at stores like Target and Costco, officials said.

The former VP, due back in court on Oct. 6, is expected to be sentenced to five years of probation, plus the restitution.

Brandon Cruz

DNA work to help ID Gilgo vic

Long Island prosecutors collected 23 DNA samples in Chinatown as part of a new effort to identify a murder victim who may have been butchered by the Gilgo Beach Killer.

Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney and his team are trying to identify “Asian Doe,” a male murder victim found buried in women’s clothing along Gilgo Beach in April 2011 — by handing out flyers in Chinatown and soliciting genetic tests of willing residents.

The team was in Manhattan on Tuesday during festivities for National Night Out, a police community-building event.

“Unfortunately, attempts to identify the victim whose remains were found on Gilgo Beach 15 years ago have been unsuccessful due to the limited number of Asian volunteers in commercial DNA databases,” Tierney told The Post.

Tierney and his team told volunteers their DNA samples may help track possible genealogical ties to the victim, who may have been a transgender sex worker.

The DNA samples will not be retained by police and won’t be entered into any law-enforcement databases, according to Tierney.

Brandon Cruz

Huh? Hong ♥ T’giving?

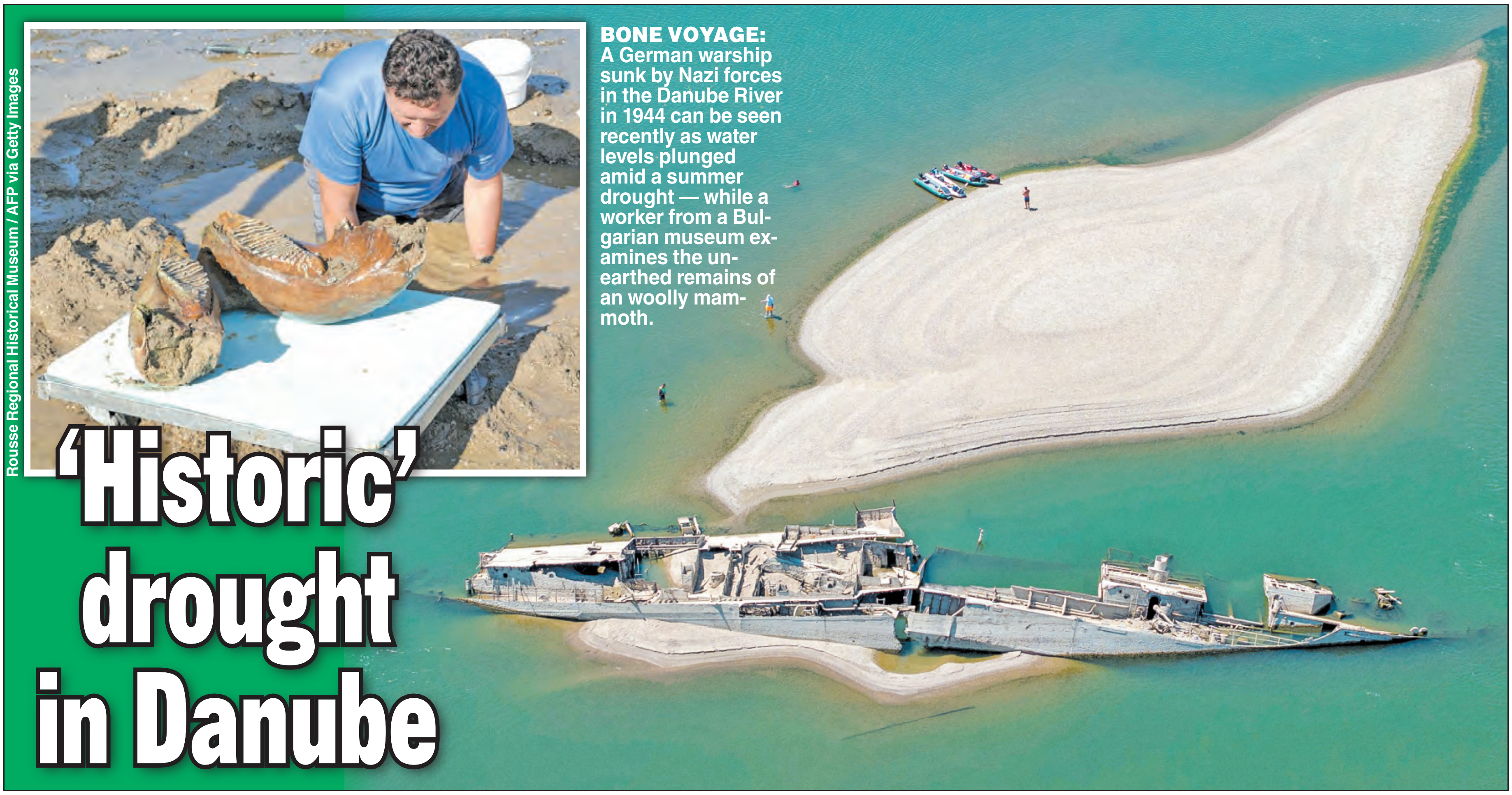
Francesca Hong, the socialist Democrat running for Wisconsin governor who once ranted about axing Thanksgiving because it’s “celebrating colonialism” — now is bizarrely claiming it’s her favorite holiday.

The gubernatorial hopeful walked back her since-deleted November 2021 “cancel Thanksgiving” post in an interview on Politico’s Playbook podcast Wednesday.

“My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving,” Hong quipped. “Yup. I don’t want to cancel it, I actually love it.”

Ella Morrison

‘Historic’ drought in Danube



BONE VOYAGE: A German warship sunk by Nazi forces in the Danube River in 1944 can be seen recently as water levels plunged amid a summer drought — while a worker from a Bulgarian museum examines the unearthed remains of an woolly mammoth.

Rousse Regional Historical Museum / AFP via Getty Images

Reuters

It’s a total ship show.

Scores of sunken World War II ships — rusty Nazi warships among them — have suddenly surfaced in Europe’s Danube River as its water levels fall to new lows.

The underwater treasures, which also include woolly mammoth bones, have emerged while a summer drought and heat wave scorches Eastern Europe, according to CBS.

At least 20 of the dazzling warships — some still equipped with weapons from Nazi Germany’s Black Sea fleet — can be seen sticking out of the river.

One ship with a weather-worn hull and a broken mast where a Nazi flag once flew has enthralled passersby near the Serbian port of Prahovo.

German commanders deliberately sank up to 200 ships in September 1944 in the Danube gorge as they came under Soviet fire. Some were pulled from the river by Communist Yugoslav authorities, but most have remained there due to potentially dangerous explosives they hauled.

Officials are now trying to keep river traffic moving on the Danube, Europe’s second longest river, which flows through 10 countries, CBS reported.

“As you can see, the [big] ships can’t pass anymore,” Krsta Brandic, a Prahovo resident, told the outlet. *Natalie O’Neill*

1/3 college grads move back home

They’re walking across the stage to get their diplomas, then walking right back into their childhood bedrooms.

Thirty percent of 18- to 34-year-olds have moved back home after graduating from college in the past five years, according to a recent Clever Real Estate study.

The main reason, say 58% of that 30%, is the high cost of living. That’s followed by 52% who say it’s to save money, then 34% who point to not being able to find a job.

A full 76% of Gen Zers living with their parents also still rely on their financial support. That figure drops to 59% for young people who live independently.

Graduates’ hopes are not aligning with reality.

About 61% thought they’d be financially independent within a year of graduating, but just 50% were.

Nearly 60% of those failing to launch say they’re praying for a housing market crash just to afford a home.

To avoid moving back into their childhood bedroom, 19% of Gen Zers say they would skip meals, 12% would live in their car and 11% would move in with a brand-new romantic partner, the study adds.

Lauren Elkies Schram

OK, GLOOMER!

Gen X most negative on economy

By ANTHONY BLAIR

Gen X has gone from the biggest hair to the biggest midlife crises ever.

The Slacker Generation is the most economically pessimistic, as members of the 40- and 50-something club go through middle age squeezed by growing expenses, a new report says.

The children of the 1980s report the lowest consumer confidence while beginning to contemplate retirement, according to a Conference Board study reported by Axios.

A typical midlife malaise could be a major contributing factor to the “forgotten generation’s” negativity, experts said. They note studies showing happiness following a U-shaped curve in the course of our lives, with youthful happiness fading over time and bottoming out in the mid- to late 40s.

The survey asked respondents whether they felt current US business conditions were good or bad and calculated a six-month average, with 100 indexed to the average in 1985.

Gen Z and millennials aged under 35 had the highest overall consumer confidence, followed by baby boomers and then Gen X, which the report said were between the ages of 45 and 61.

The six-month average of the Consumer Confidence Index for Gen X is down to 78 points, the lowest in at least 4½ years, with Boomers down to 83 points, the lowest since October 2021.

Confidence readings for both groups have been in a steady decline since early 2025, data shows.

Gen Z confidence rose slightly in April to just about 108 points, just a few points above Millennials.

Gen X is stuck as the “sandwich generation,” caring for both aging Boomer parents and Gen Z children, Conference Board chief economist Dana Peterson told Axios.

Gen X also feels unprepared for retirement, despite currently being in their peak earning years, with only 35% feeling prepared to financially support their parents and just 55% saying they feel they can financially support their children over the next few years, says a report from NielsenIQ.

The generation is expected to lead global consumer spending at least through 2033, possibly until 2036 in high-income markets, and is already commanding over 30% of US household spending.

While Boomers still dominate in net worth, Gen X was on track to spend $15.2 trillion worldwide in 2025, a figure set to climb to $23 trillion by 2035.

Startup couple packs it in

Page Six®

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Cameras Rolling

ROCK icon **Mick Jagger** is intrigued by the possibility of a Rolling Stones biopic, sources say, after The Beatles are getting four films in 2028 by director **Sam Mendes**. Reports have said in the past that Jagger, 83, was down on doing any kind of autobiography, even after his bandmate **Keith Richards**' successful book, "Life," hit shelves in 2010. According to a pal: "Mick is actively thinking about what a movie project could be for the Stones. Being involved would allow him to have a voice in the project and even put across things that would be important to him. The Beatles' movies certainly moved the dial for him." We've reached out to Jagger's rep.

UK in Fuge state

LAURYN Hill and **Wyclef Jean** reunited in London last night to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Fugees' 1996 hit album "The Score." The former bandmates greeted fans and signed merch before Hill (above) premiered new work by LA artist **Lauren Halsey** in Piccadilly Lights. It's part of UK music fest Diaspora Calling!, curated by Hill. "I am in such a state of embodiment with respect to what's happening that I'm not sure I have the words," Hill said. "Right now, I have action. My actions are speaking for me through the work itself."

THEY'RE getting rid of their baggage.

Away luggage co-founder **Jennifer Rubio** and billionaire tech entrepreneur **Stewart Butterfield**, the co-founder of Flickr and Slack, are splitting after six years of marriage and two kids.

The couple announced the news on Instagram yesterday, saying, "With deep love and respect for one another, we've made the decision to separate . . . Our children will always come first, and we are committed to raising them in a loving environment with two active and present parents." They added they're "also partners in the life we've built together," and "remain dedicated to the arts, to philanthropy through the Rubio Butterfield Foundation, and to the shared businesses, investments, and causes that have long been important to us."

A source in their circle tells us they are "shocked" over the news and that the pair had just hosted friends on their boat. "They seemed like the It couple," the source said.

Another says it's not so sudden. "Jen and Stewart have privately been moving down this path for some time," a source familiar with the situation told Page Six. "They remain good friends and have hosted multiple trips with friends in that capacity this summer."

Rubio and Butterfield looked every bit the power couple in May when they walked the red carpet at the Met Gala. They had just been named trustees of the museum following a pledged $23 million.

That same month, Rubio chronicled their whirlwind social calendar. "Venice Biennale, Dior show at LACMA, Dia Beacon benefit with Chanel, Louis Vuitton show at the Frick, Alaïa dinner . . . Gucci show in Times Square . . . AND a new puppy," she captioned a glamour post.

In addition to racking up social cachet, the couple amassed a real estate portfolio reportedly worth at least $140 million, and their formidable art collection includes pieces from blue-chippers Cy Twombly, **Ed Ruscha**, **Richard Prince**, **George Condo** and **Kara Walker**.

GC Images

Hope she brought the Lipitor . . . Richard Gere, 76, rests his achin' cones with Diana Silvers, 28, as they shoot the age-gap drama "Asymmetry" in Central Park.

Hedgies cut campground from under alumni

PRIVATE equity firms have emerged as the winners in the war for **Mike** and **David Shabsels**' bankrupt camps. More than two dozen of the brothers' camps — including Mohawk Day Camp — have been acquired, according to court docs filed on Tuesday. After Page Six reported that Warner Bros. CEO **David Zaslav** was outbid despite upping his number to $80 million, filings reveal that private equity firm FitzWalter Capital won the bid at $120,750,000. When Israeli investors filed a lawsuit against the Shabsels claiming they owe $500 million, camp alumni began raising capital "to keep their childhood camps intact, for the future of their children and generations to come," one insider said. Unfortunately, hedge funds swept in. American Youth Camping Inc. scooped up six, including Camp Echo, for $17,000,000. Successful bids for 23 out of the 30 camps total $368,307,818 so far. We hear the fight continues for other sites, such as Camp Lavi.

Bigg foot believer

JASON Biggs revealed a surprising kink months after he split from his wife of 18 years, **Jenny Mollen**. "I like feet, I appreciate feet," the "American Pie" actor said on **Ego Nwodim**'s "Thanks Dad" podcast. "I think feet can be sexy." But, he clarified, "in the same way that I like good feet, [feet can also be] like, 'Oof.'" Biggs, 48, specified he's not a fan of "a thonged sandal with a heel," and said that in New York, "you need some closed-toe shoes!" Biggs took off his shoes and showed off his own feet, admitting that he's "a mani-pedi guy." "They're OK. They're not bad," the actor noted. Nwodim, 38, replied, "They're fine. I wouldn't see that foot and go, 'Put it away!'"

Stew serves spice

MARTHA Stewart got candid about **Meghan Markle** stepping into the "cooking space" after being an actress and a princess. "I had dinner with Meghan Markle the other night. We were both guests at a dinner party in California. And she had just gotten back from the palace," Stewart (above) told People, referring to the Duchess' trip to the UK with Prince **Harry** and their kids. When asked her thoughts on "With Love, Meghan," Markle's cooking show, the domestic diva, 85, offered a deflating critique. "If you're an actress, it's hard to then transition to a princess and then from a princess into a homemaking guru on a television show," Stewart said. "It doesn't follow. So go from there."

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Is the kitchen big enough for cooking and entertaining?

Entertain with Ease

This home features a high-end primary kitc and a dedicated secondary kitchen designe for large gatherings. The main kitchen showcases an Officine Gullo installation, wh the secondary space handles overflow durir entertainment.

Key kitchen and dining details include:

- **Dimensions:** The primary kitchen measures **18' x 13'**, complemented by a 1 ing room.
- : High-end features include en, gas range, and ainless steel appliances.
- **Entertaining:** Amenities such as a **wine cellar** for **500+ bottles** and an outdoor **wood-fired pizza oven** support large-scale hosting.

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The end of a news era

By NICHOLAS McENTYRE

OFF AIR: Iconic local news anchor Kaity Tong — who enjoyed long stints working at WABC and WPIX — is retiring at the end of the month.

PIX11 legend Kaity's retiring

Signing off.

New York PIX11 news icon Kaity Tong announced her retirement on Tuesday night, closing out an illustrious, award-filled career that spanned over six decades.

The Emmy-winning broadcast journalist, who has been with PIX11 since 1992, will anchor her final show on Aug. 30, the station announced.

"Journalist, anchor, icon, legend, friend, mentor. A few of the words that describe our beloved Kaity Tong," PIX11 Managing Editor Patrick Mason said.

"After more than 34 years at WPIX, Kaity has opted to move into a much-deserved retirement at the end of August. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the New York City area who doesn't immediately associate PIX11 with Kaity. A powerhouse name in an industry that can change in a New York minute."

Path not chosen

Born in China before moving to the US at 4 years old, Tong, 79, says she never wanted to be an on-air reporter, accidentally getting into the industry while she was a doctoral candidate at Stanford University.

"I never aspired to be a broadcast journalist. No, I wanted to be a college professor," Tong said during her induction into the New York State Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame in October.

Following in the footsteps of her mother and uncle, both acclaimed journalists, Tong secured a summer position as morning editor and producer for San Francisco's KCBS All-News Radio in the 1970s.

The seasonal job turned into a yearlong employment at the station as she pushed aside graduate work, never finishing her doctoral dissertation in Chinese and Japanese studies, according to her online biography.

Tong quickly moved into television reporting, joining San Francisco's KPIX-TV as a writer before being turned into a reporter "on the spot" in 1976.

Following a stint at Sacramento's KCRA, Tong moved to New York, where she became a correspondent and weekend co-anchor for WABC in 1981.

Tong was named co-anchor for 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. broadcasts two years into her tenure at the station.

In 1991, Tong joined WPIX, where she has been since, starting as the top female anchor and is now weekend anchor.

3 kin dead in NC shooting

Three family members are dead and one is hospitalized after a mass shooting at a North Carolina home Wednesday.

The shooting erupted in Caswell County, north of Raleigh, before 8 a.m., authorities said.

The victims and the shooter — who is dead — were adults from the same family, the county sheriff said.

"One person was transferred to Duke University Hospital with gunshot wounds and we do not have a condition," Sheriff Tony Durden told reporters, adding that authorities have not released information about the victims or suspect "out of respect to the family."

Jared Downing

Cindy Adams has been called up by the Yankees. She returns next week.

‘ONE’ BIG BOREGASM

InStyle
FALL IN LOVE WITH MONICA BARBARO
InStyle

Amy Harrity/InStyle

Monica mellow in yellow

After 13 years acting, “One Night Only” star Monica Barbaro keeps her career in perspective. “I’ve had nonstop breakthroughs,” the 36-year-old tells InStyle (inset), “and also hiatuses and fears.”

‘Night’ sex comedy didn’t do it for me

Johnny Oleksinski

MOVIE REVIEW

ONE NIGHT ONLY

Running time: 102 minutes. Rated R (sexual material, language, and brief nudity). In theaters Aug. 7.

★★

A version of “The Purge” in which US singles can only legally have sex for one day a year is a good pitch.

A great pitch.

Too bad the setup is also the funniest part of “One Night Only,” starring Callum Turner and Monica Barbaro. There’s a hearty laugh in the first few seconds when a straight-faced explainer pops up onscreen to upbeat rom-com music in front of the New York skyline.

“Three years ago, premarital sex was outlawed in the United States except for one night a year,” it abruptly says.

Ha.

The movie, at that point, appears to be a strange and clever mashup of “Friends With Benefits” and “The Handmaid’s Tale.” Yet the giggles and ingenuity taper off. And by the end, we’ve watched something closer to “Date Night” with Tina Fey and Steve Carell — a “nothing good happens after midnight” trip with multiple underwhelming stops en route to a predictable, lovey-dovey ending.

Over a rowdy 12 hours, Owen (Turner) and Allie (Barbaro) find themselves in increasingly silly situations in a frenzy to get laid. We’ve seen better versions of this story many, many times.

But director Will Gluck’s movie adds a barely discernible dusting of sci-fi dystopia, and so the skeptical audience silently asks follow-up question after follow-up question about the preposterous circumstances.

Congress apparently passed this law to promote traditional marriage (spouses can still get it on 24/7, 365). And as a result, every American has had an implant inserted into their arm that alerts law enforcement of rising dopamine levels that suggest they’re getting it on.

“The Purge,” about a 24-hour stretch of legalized crime, somehow comes off more realistic than “One Night Only.”

So you’re telling me it took us in the real world 20 years to fully enact the REAL ID act, but in this movie 350 million people got forced bio-electronic surgery in time before a new congressional majority could repeal the loony sex ban?

And the US government surely can’t enforce American zippers in Europe or South America. Couldn’t our randy citizens just fly to other countries to vent their frustrations?

Also why does nobody seem all that mad about having one of the most basic human functions prohibited by law?

Everybody indulges in this baby bacchanal except for the two most boring people in town — our main characters!

Owen, an uncommonly hot pizzeria owner, is about to propose to his girlfriend over a nice omakase dinner when she drops a bomb. “I’m going to sleep with someone else tonight,” the mean GF says. Distraught, Owen begrudgingly decides to sow his oats as a distraction.

Allie, meanwhile, attends a single mingle type of party meant to help people get lucky. Allie wants more than a quick tumble in the sack. She wants to forge a meaningful connection. Of course she does.

Perhaps she’ll finally get her genuine spark with Owen. After an awkward meet-cute (in this instance, a meet-puke) in the street, the pair keep running into each other. What prevents “One Night Only” from becoming bad sex is the chemistry between Turner and Barbaro. Their energy is flirty and warm, even if it’s rather suspect that the two hottest people in this purported sex comedy are the ones least interested in sex.

Quite by accident, Gluck’s routine film ends up resembling so many of the one-night stands it’s about: A fantastic plan at first, but an unsatisfying letdown in the light of day.

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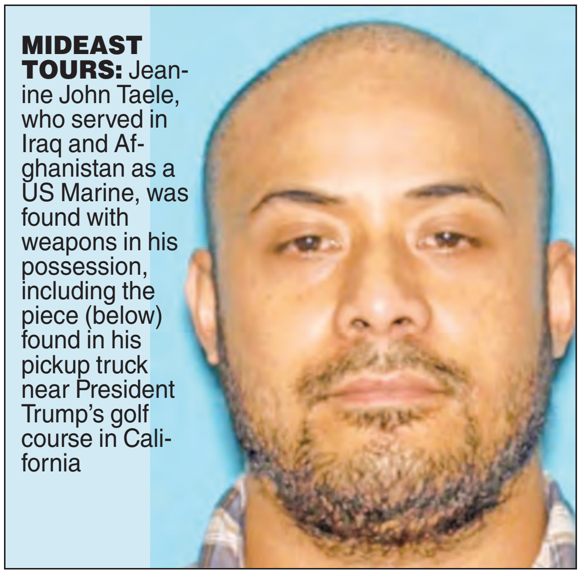
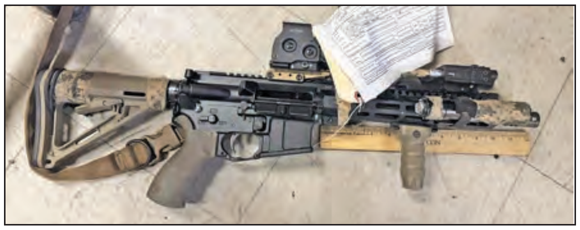
‘Don menace’ an ex-Marine

By ZAIN KHAN



MIDEAST TOURS: Jeanine John Taele, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a US Marine, was found with weapons in his possession, including the piece (below) found in his pickup truck near President Trump’s golf course in California



The armed man accused of scouting President Trump’s Southern California golf club before the commander in chief’s visit was a decorated former US Marine who completed combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Jeanine John Taele, 38, of Downey, Calif., served in the Marine Corps from 2008 to 2016, reaching the rank of corporal while assigned as a warehouse clerk with the elite 1st Reconnaissance Battalion at Camp Pendleton, according to military records obtained by The Post.

Taele deployed to Iraq from October 2008 through March 2009, and later served in Afghanistan from June through December 2010, records show.

His military file shows he earned two Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, awarded for repeated periods of honorable and disciplined service, along with a Navy Unit Commendation recognizing exceptional performance by his unit.

Extremist ties?

Federal investigators are digging into Taele’s history, including whether he had any ties to extremist groups or connections to Californians at the center of a foiled terror plot at the June UFC event at the White House, a law enforcement source told The Post.

Taele now faces federal charges after authorities say they found him armed at Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles in Rancho Palos Verdes days before the president’s Aug. 4 fundraising visit there.

He was charged in a federal criminal complaint with possessing an unregistered short-barreled rifle, a felony carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Agents conducting advance security planning spotted Taele on July 31 walking around the golf course and wearing an earpiece while photographing and filming security preparations, according to federal prosecutors.

He allegedly returned to the club on Aug. 2, where he falsely claimed he worked for the State Department on a security detail and admitted he had a loaded firearm in his pickup truck.

Law enforcement recovered a loaded 9mm pistol, hollow-point ammunition, binoculars and a badge labeled “security protection agent” from his truck, prosecutors said.

Slimy trash man kid-porn bust

A former NYC Department of Sanitation superintendent allegedly possessed thousands of images and videos of child pornography — including on a flash drive in the pocket of his DSNY jacket.

Victor Alvelo, 61, was busted on kid-porn charges Tuesday after federal and NYPD investigators found thousands of disturbing images of prepubescent children in his Bronx home, according to the US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York.

Alvelo — a general DSNY superintendent until his retirement in 2025 — faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said in a statement: “The NYPD will be relentless in stopping predators who seek to exploit and harm children. I thank our investigators … and law enforcement partners for finding this illegal and vile material.” *Zoe Hussain*

BRADY HARMON
Ex killed his 4 kids.

Dad: Kid slayers go to hell

The father of four children allegedly murdered by their grandma and mom in an upstate New York apartment said the killers deserve a "special place in hell."

Sarah Myers, 44, and her 64-year-old mother Amy Steadman "conspired in carrying out the murders of the four children [on June 10] before taking their own lives," Mechanicville police chief William Rabbitt confirmed on Tuesday.

"I knew my kids were murdered," Brady Harmon told News10 on Tuesday.

Three of the kids, Harper, 13, Hudson, 11, and Gracelynn, 10, were poisoned. Gavin, 10, was knifed trying to defend himself, Rabbitt said.

"My kids suffered," Brady Harmon told WRGB. "To poison them and also to stab them — there's a special place in hell for people like that." Brady Harmon, who had been locked in a bitter custody dispute with his ex-wife, hadn't seen his children since November 2019. *Chris Bradford*

Pizzeria vs. cake eaters

A group of customers visiting a Jersey Shore boardwalk pizzeria were met with intense hostility from an employee after they asked for a knife to slice a birthday cake they had brought for a child's party, according to a viral video.

The altercation occurred on Saturday at Joey Tomato's, located on the Jenkinson's boardwalk in Point Pleasant Beach, where the group had visited under the impression they were allowed to bring the outside cake to their celebration. *Daniel Cody*

RIKKI SCHLOTT

ABOUT LAST NIGHT

MATCH BURNS: Singles shared dating horror stories in Brooklyn (below) — some about crazy sex requests — that made our columnist think women should gripe less — and demand better.

Emmy Park for NY Post

Gals, what are you kinking?

Learn from bad dating tales

ON a warm Thursday night in July, hundreds of New Yorkers — most of them single women — gathered at Littlefield in Gowanus to trauma bond over the horrors of modern dating.

They came to attend About Last Night, a nationwide event started in 2016 where people get up on stage to tell tales of terrible dates and lament the misery of looking for love.

The event aims to help singles feel less alone, but the stories of diaper fetishes and perverted co-workers actually showed just how much bad behavior singles — especially women — are letting their partners get away with.

One woman, Jesse, recounted having her first one-night stand in New York City at age 22. The older man she was hooking up with got up, sat on his standing desk, and rode it up and down naked as she watched, baffled.

Farting turn-on

Another young woman, CJ, recalled hooking up during lockdown with a "Japanese cocaine-dealing skater boy with a lisp," only to realize that she was actually in love with another member of her 28-person cooperative housing living setup. After leaving his apartment high on cocaine, she spontaneously joined a nearby Black Lives Matter protest, where police tear-gassed her.

A guy named Jared recalled going on a date with a woman who admitted she was in a 24/7 dominant-submissive kink relationship with an older man who had been reading all of their texts and controlling whether or not she could see Jared or be intimate with him.

There were also quite a few appeals to bathroom humor.

Frankie recalled a budding romance with a co-worker who admitted on their second date that he was sexually aroused by women farting.

Chase James, the Los Angeles-based founder of About Last Night, said the event was inspired by his friend group's ritual of sharing their own terrible experiences from the night before over breakfast. He started the series in San Francisco a decade ago and has since expanded to Chicago, New York, Denver and Seattle. Soon, they will host events in Austin and DC, too.

"It was just this really special feeling of trust and camaraderie, and I was wondering how I could bring that on a grander scale," he told The Post. "For a moment in time, it's not the worst thing anymore. It's kind of the best, because we're all laughing about it together."

To my ears, though, the stories all seemed to be oriented toward one conclusion: young people are treating one another like disposable sexual objects, and often ignoring their own values to keep up with a fast-paced dating scene.

Left at ER by date

I found myself asking, Why did you end up in bed with a man you promised yourself you wouldn't hook up with? Why did you let your co-worker continue to send you porn for days before speaking up?

We talk so much about how horrific modern dating is — and rightfully so — but it's only being made worse by our collective relinquishment of agency.

The final speaker, a New Yorker named Daisy, told the audience about a time when, after a handful of dates with a man she was interested in, she violated her own boundaries and allowed herself to be talked into sex before commitment.

She'd mustered up the courage to tell the man, "I really, really like you. I would love to maybe not have this be casual. I would love to maybe get in a relationship, what do you think?"

She was "devastated" when he rejected her proposition, but stifled her disappointment — and went along with casual sex hoping to gain his affection.

"I was like, yes, of course this 25-year-old man is saying I'm ready, so I must be ready . . . [and] I kept telling myself, 'This is what it means to be 20,' " she said on stage.

The story crescendoed when Daisy, who received a triple organ transplant as a child, starts bleeding profusely during sex and needs to go to the hospital — only to be left by her hookup partner in the waiting room. She had to head into emergency surgery all alone.

Gals, speak up

It's a dramatic ending, but with a relatable conclusion. "It made me realize how much we push ourselves to do things we think we should based on societal standards," she told the crowd

If there's any one takeaway from the messiness of About Last Night, it's this: So much of the horror of modern dating is the result of us, as women, talking ourselves into participating in a system that doesn't serve our own interests. We give in to avoid conflict, have casual sex when we don't really want to and accept terrible behavior because "dating sucks."

We can keep complaining about it . . . or we can start demanding better.

PEREZ HILTON'S

GRIM: Just weeks after moving from Las Vegas to this home in Florida, "Queen of Mean" blogger Perez Hilton appeared to self-harm in a livestream and was rushed to a hospital.

Guilt over gossip, food binges and a 'suicidal' video

By MEGAN PALIN
and HAILEY EBER

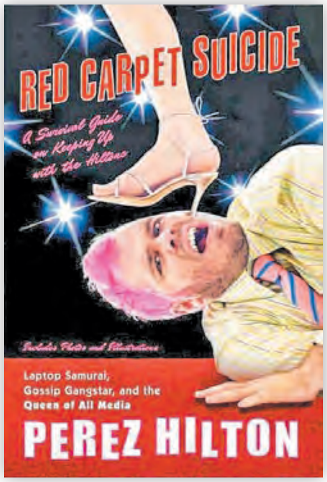
Perez Hilton has spent more than two decades ricocheting between fame and infamy, scandal and redemption, reinvention and regret.

He dreamed of becoming an actor but ended up Hollywood's most notorious gossip blogger, building an internet empire by rattling the biggest stars of the 2000s. However, scandals, celebrity feuds and changing pop-culture tastes forced the self-styled "Queen of Mean" to confront — and reckon with — the Perez of his past.

That culminated in the most horrifying way imaginable this week.

On Tuesday night, the 48-year-old appeared to cut himself with a knife and talked of suicide during a horrific TikTok livestream, prompting frantic viewers to call emergency services. He is now being treated in a hospital.

The single dad of three has long battled with his weight and depression and just months ago survived a near-fatal bout of sepsis, before dramatically declaring he had found God.


RED CARPET SUICIDE
A Survival Guide on Keeping Up with the Hiltons
Includes Photos and Illustrations
Laptop Samurai, Gossip Gangstar, and the Queen of All Media
PEREZ HILTON

Friends say his mental-health crisis came out of nowhere, just weeks after uprooting his family from Las Vegas for a new beginning in his native Miami.

"He barely drinks. I can't actually remember the last time I saw him drinking any alcohol, and he definitely doesn't do drugs. So all of this is completely out of character," one source close to Hilton told The Post.

"It's not like this has been a downward spiral. It just hasn't."

Mounting bills

However, Hilton has been open about his mounting medical bills and the cross-country move taking a toll on him, as well as struggling to escape the vicious online character that made him infamous.

"Old Perez is like a permanent tattoo I can't get rid of," he told a reporter in 2019, in a previously unpublished interview obtained by The Post.

He started out as Mario Lavandeira Jr., born to Cuban parents in Little Havana, attending a Jesuit Preparatory School, then New York University to study drama before moving to Los Angeles.

While Hollywood didn't want him, the internet did.

Hilton launched (ahem) PageSixSixSix.com in 2004, which was quickly renamed PerezHilton.com, a moniker he also adopted as his stage name, a riff on the then-biggest internet star Paris Hilton.

It was the dawn of the anything-goes celebrity-blog era, with Britney Spears melting down in front of paparazzi and Lindsay Lohan's indiscretions ruling the tabloids.

Hilton, who is openly gay, capitalized. He became known for scribbling crude images over paparazzi shots, inventing insulting nicknames and gleefully skewering celebrities' bodies, relationships and personal crises.

He relentlessly mocked Spears during her highly publicized mental-health struggles and, following Heath Ledger's death in 2008, notoriously sold T-shirts reading: "Why couldn't it be Britney?"

He publicly speculated about — and in some cases outed — stars, including Lance Bass and Neil Patrick Harris, arguing at the time that exposing gay celebrities was legitimate reporting.

Hilton claimed he was drawing in more than 8 million readers a day in 2007 and became as recognizable as many of the celebrities he covered.

Three years later, the tide was turning. Hilton had racked up feuds with the Black Eyed Peas and Lady Gaga, sparked outrage by posting a photograph that appeared to show 17-year-old Miley Cyrus without underwear and found himself embroiled in lawsuits with paparazzi over using their copyrighted photos.

"One of the many things I regret is that I hurt so many people by giving them nasty nicknames, and above all that I was unkind to the children of celebrities," he later wrote in his 2020 memoir "TMI: My Life in Scandal."

Hilton tried to show a different side of himself by appearing on reality shows such as the UK edition of "Celebrity Big Brother" and "Worst Cooks in America."

Life also changed when he became a father, welcoming son Mario Armando Lavandeira III in February 2013, daughter Mia Alma in 2015 and daughter Mayte Amor in 2017.

Father of three kids

All three children are genetically his and were conceived using eggs from the same anonymous donor but carried by different surrogates.

Sources told Page Six he has always been a "devoted dad" and fatherhood changed him a great deal.

"I'm really happy. I strive to be even happier . . . I want to work hard at being even happier. That requires thought, analyzing, observing. And I love that as I get close to 41, I'm doing things differently than before," he said in the 2019 interview.

Hilton's mother, Teresita, has remained a major part of his life and helped him raise the children, while he's also close to his sister, Barbara.

"The person Mario is away from his social media and online character of Perez Hilton is so different from the person that people think of him as," the friend said. "He's so kind, a little shy, self-deprecating and incredibly funny.

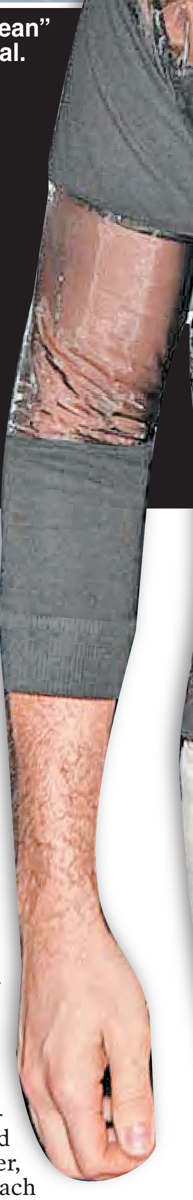
As part of a public reinvention, Hilton also focused on his physical health.

At his heaviest, Hilton said, he tipped the scales at 255 pounds but lost more than 60 pounds through years of diet and exercise. He said in 2025 maintaining his transformation was a daily fight.

"I am a food addict," Hilton told The Post at the time. "If I fall off the wagon, like an alcoholic. It takes so much to get back on."

Amid hosting a podcast, running his site — which in recent years has become a more niche interest — and making TV appearances, 2026 has proven a year of significant upheaval.

In March a bout of flu spiraled, with Hilton later saying he had been taking medication without food and developed an ulcer, followed by a stomach



HARMFUL PATH

PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

THE SEMI-IN CROWD: At the height of his popularity in the 2000s, the line blurred between snarky blogger Perez Hilton and the B-list celebrities who frequented his blurbs, such as singer Fergie, rapper Flava Flav and socialite Paris Hilton (from left).

Getty Images

perforation that led to sepsis.

"My stupidity landed me in the hospital for 21 days," Hilton said while recounting the ordeal in a video posted on Instagram. "My body kept falling apart."

A subsequent blood clot in his leg provided another serious health scare.

"It scared the hell out of him and was a massive awakening," a source told The Post.

Then Hilton, raised Catholic and educated by Jesuits, but not really a believer, found God.

He said himself what he experienced, he could only call "miraculous."

In a tearful video after his hospitalization, he apologized and admitted he had hurt people in pursuit of attention, money and clicks.

"Nobody's perfect, but my mistakes are very public," he said in a video shared on social media earlier this year. "The internet is forever. Receipts are forever. I carry with me deep shame and regret. I'm sorry, I will continue to apologize."

In June, he suddenly announced he and his family were leaving Las Vegas, saying "This is heaven-sent. God told me to move to Miami."

Has lots of support

Hilton acknowledged he felt guilty about uprooting his children, and the city held difficult memories for him. "For the longest time, for 30-plus years, I did not love Miami," he said in a June 17 clip, explaining priests had constantly shamed students at his school about homosexuality, and his father and grandfather had died there. "Even though I was born and raised there . . . I got out of there as quickly as I could because I had so much trauma associated with my time in Miami."

Sources separately said Wednesday Hilton found establishing a new home in Miami more difficult than expected, and financial woes were bearing down on him.

"Some pretty extreme medical bills really hit him hard," the source said. "He's one of the hardest-working people I know, and suddenly being faced with these mounting financial pressures was a lot for him."

Hilton is also the breadwinner for his entire family, which added to pressures, sources said. However, nobody could be prepared for the horrific scenes livestreamed this week, which shocked the world.

"Our focus remains on Perez's health, recovery and the privacy of both him and his family," his reps said Wednesday.

And those close to him are hoping he takes his own advice, imparted seven years ago when he said experiencing depression in his 20s taught him something that would help if he hit dark times again.

"I'll know that it's temporary," he said.

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NYC biz owners take upscale upstate

By ROB LeDONNE

They're heading for the hills.

Big Apple business owners are fleeing for the bridges and tunnels in search of a better life upstate — taking their unique talents to the charming towns of the Hudson Valley and Catskills.

The trend toward city-weary New Yorkers moving up the Hudson in search of greener pastures gathered steam during COVID, and has shown no sign of reversing, according to area real-estate insiders.

More and more, that growing population — estimated to have swelled the regional ranks by well over 100,000 new residents in the COVID years alone, according to reports — appears to include some of Gotham's most go-getter entrepreneurs. And they're finding themselves warmly welcomed by locals both old and new.

"It's amazing how many people I see from the city; they're like 'Oh my God, I can't believe you're here!' " veteran NYC restaurateur Daniel Cipriani told The Post. Last winter he opened Dandies, a modern BBQ joint in the mountaintop ski town of Windham.

GREENER
PASTURES

Shelter Woodstock

SHELTER FROM THE BROOKLYN STORM: The ski-lodge-inspired restaurant Shelter decamped from Williamsburg to upstate Woodstock in 2023 after owners got hit with a whopping rent increase.

Brooklyn transplant

The Marine-turned-chef — no relation to those other, famous culinary Ciprianis — made his name at the popular Brooklyn restaurant Sea Wolf, which Vogue once called the "epicenter of the hipster universe."

Now he's gone from the city to the sticks.

"Post-COVID, it just made sense to go 'all in' on upstate," said Cipriani.

"There are so many more people coming up here, from visitors to full-time and weekend residents, who all appreciate good food," he said.

Open for business on the property of Windham's rustic Eastwind Hotel since last winter (Cipriani also co-founded the mini-hotel chain and serves as its food-and-beverage director), Dandies doles out platters piled high with pulled pork, smoked brisket and succulent chicken.

"We're smoking it all in a 333-gallon smoker we drove here from Texas," said Cipriani.

The demand for new venues has been keeping real-estate brokers hopping.

"It's just been snowballing, Nicole Vidor — owner of Nicole Vidor Real Estate in the fashionable town of Hudson across the river — told The Post.

She's been in the business and in the region for nearly 20 years — and even after the boom years that began in 2020, she's been impressed by the recent uptick in interest.

"There is amazing demand from all over — people are even coming here from California," she said.

'Equally difficult'

And while the pace of life may indeed be slower up here, don't be fooled, Cipriani said. Operating a business outside the city is "equally difficult — but for different reasons.

"In the city, you have regularity issues, the volume, and all of the other craziness you have to deal with," he explained.

"In the Catskills, all of those things are easier, even something as simple as construction. But up here, the hard stuff can be staffing and getting all the stuff you need shipped in," he said.

"It's the hardest business in the world," he said of running a restaurant, even in idyllic Windham. "But it's also the most rewarding if you love it, and I love it."

Down the mountain in the nearby town of Woodstock, locals are flocking to another Brooklyn restaurant transplant.

Shelter, a sprawling ski-lodge-inspired restaurant that boasted roaring fireplaces that doled out pizza and empanadas, closed up shop in Williamsburg in 2023 after a 10-year run — following a rent increase to a whopping $90,000 per month.

A year-and-a-half after saying bye-bye to the Borough of Churches, they opened Shelter Woodstock — and haven't looked back since. "Our landlords checked us out and said, 'This is what the town needs.' "

Business booming

According to the duo, business is booming — with hungry revelers feasting on menu hallmarks like onion and cheese empanadas, wood-fired pizza topped with arugula, prosciutto and burrata, and red wine-braised pork ribs.

No town upstate quite feels like a missing NYC neighborhood as much as Hudson — which began gentrifying decades ago and shows no signs of slowing.

Up and down Warren Street and in the nearby side streets, former Big Apple businesses — or branches thereof — are increasingly thick on the ground.

Catering to them in recent years include the likes of Nora Allen — a James Beard semi-finalist whose acclaimed Mel the Bakery, on Manhattan's Lower East Side, has been drawing fans to its new home, hours away from the now-shuttered original.

Up the street, Williamsburg's luxe butcher shop Meat Hook opened up a second location on the same street in 2024.

Yet another neighbor is the fourth location of Gotham, the refined weed dispensary and lifestyle store that originated in NYC — and has splashy locations in hot neighborhoods like Chelsea and Brooklyn's Domino Sugar Refinery.

Bar exam 'brain injury' suit

An attorney hopeful lost consciousness and suffered a serious brain injury during the bar exam at Hofstra University, as proctors refused to stop the test and ignored her gasps for help, a shocking lawsuit claims.

Mary Jane Jung, 36, of New Jersey, suddenly slumped out of her chair and allegedly went into cardiac arrest inside the Long Island school's David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex shortly before a lunch break on July 30, 2025, during the morning session of the New York State Bar Examination, court papers filed in Nassau County say.

Jung was "gasping for her air," lost consciousness and turned blue, while exam proctors ordered the hundreds in the room to carry on with the test — delaying Jung critical "early minutes" medical help, her suit against the state and its Board of Law Examiners says.

Hofstra says its public-safety officers immediately provided CPR and other lifesaving measures.

Jung suffered a brain injury and doctors needed to implant a defibrillator, court papers said. *Daniel Cody*

Dem 'begs' ethics question

A Democratic district leader is urging state ethics officials to investigate presumptive Queens Assemblyman-elect Brian Romero for posting a GoFundMe that urged the public to help pay his rent and other living expenses before he takes office.

"He is using the victory of the Assembly seat to entice people to give him cash," said Rosa Sanchez, a Democratic district leader who was Romero's election opponent, in an Aug. 3 letter to the Legislative Ethics Commission and the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government.

Romero, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, won the Democratic primary in June and has no GOP opposition, making him the Assemblyman-elect for the 34th District, which includes parts of Astoria, Corona and East Elmhurst.

He took the fundraising page down following inquiries and a backlash — but not before it collected more than $1,000, which he has said he didn't keep.

Romero declined to comment. *Carl Campanile*

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Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

The most important thing now is that you keep channels of communication open with someone who appears to disagree with you on just about every issue. Chances are your opinions are not as far apart as you think, so keep talking.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Try not to get bogged down in details today, because what is going on in your world requires you to stand back from events and see the bigger picture. The first thing you will notice is that your enemies could just as easily be allies.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Venus, your ruling planet, enters your own sign today and almost immediately you will sense that a shift is occurring that will tilt the world back in your favor. You may not get everything you wish for but you will get many things worth having.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

It is essential that you see people for what they really are rather than what they would like you to believe about them. Your keen Scorpio eye will pick up on a number of clues today - don't be slow in acting on what they tell you.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

The momentum you have built up in recent weeks will keep you going for some time, but as Venus moves into the networking area of your chart today it would be helpful if you could slow down a bit - not least because your friends can't keep up.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

If you have found the going tough on the work front of late things should become easier for you now that Venus is moving into the career area of your chart. Anyone who doubts you have what it takes to shine will soon be proved wrong.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Ask yourself what you would do in the world if you knew you could not fail, and then get on and do it. The cosmic forces are working in your favor at the moment, so if you believe in yourself and what you are doing success is all but guaranteed.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

It's easy to be scared of things we don't understand but it's also easy, if we so choose, to face up to those things and refuse to feel threatened. If you look a particular fear squarely in the face today it will never bother you again.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

Don't waste your time arguing with people who don't share your values. Today's Sun-Saturn link means you will do best if you focus on what matters to you personally and ignore those who always seem so negative. You don't need them.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

You may not be an obvious deep thinker but you have your moments and one such moment will bring forth an idea that strikes you with the force of a thunderbolt today. Act on that idea immediately, because 24 hours from now it may no longer work.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

The questions you ask of other people are not so important as the questions you ask of yourself. If your internal voice nags at you to focus on something of a personal nature today don't try to ignore it, because it's time this question was answered.

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

As one of the zodiac's cardinal signs it's not unusual for you to clash with people whose outlook on life is at odds with your own. What you need to remember today is that though you won't change them and they won't change you, you can coexist.

BIRTHDAY THURSDAY

A Sun-Saturn link on your birthday will help you focus on essentials and not waste so much time and energy on stuff that has no great meaning. Let people see you are serious about improving not only your own life but their lives as well.

Post Weather Report

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Thursday

Today: Clouds and sun, a stray t-storm; humid. High 86 to 92.

Tonight: Humid; a t-storm around early. Low 73 to 79.

Friday

Tomorrow: A shower and t-storm in the afternoon. High 86 to 92.

Tomorrow night: Humid; an evening t-storm. Low 72 to 78.

Saturday

A t-storm around. High 85 to 91.

Evening
Humid. Low 71 to 77.

Sunday

Sunshine and hot. High 87 to 93.

Evening
Mainly clear. Low 70 to 76.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

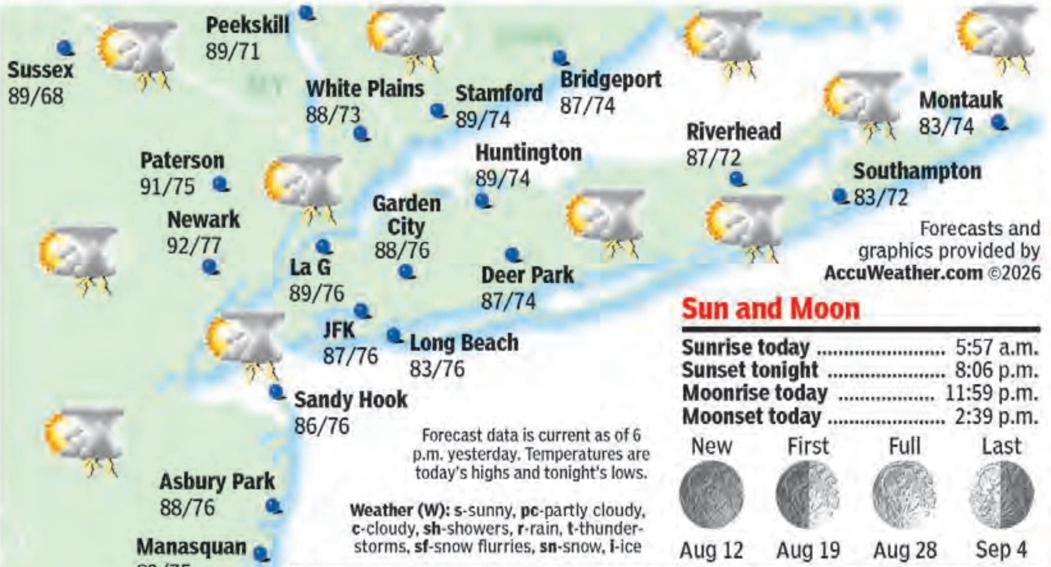
Temperature
High: 83, Low: 70, Mean: 77

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: -1 degrees

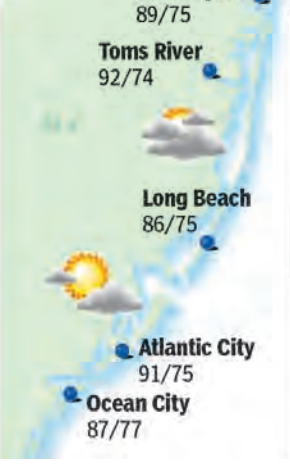
Precipitation
Yesterday: trace, Month: 2.00",
Year: 24.71", Normal year to date: 29.11"

Cooling Degree days yesterday..............12
Total for the month (normal)...........61 (61)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)...........821 (762)
Last year to date..................................832
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 82
UV index (for Thu.) .... 7 (High)
Humidity (at noon) 52%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Weeds, Grasses
AQI rating: (for Thu.) ....Moderate



Sussex 89/68
Peekskill 89/71
White Plains 88/73
Stamford 89/74
Bridgeport 87/74
Riverhead 87/72
Montauk 83/74
Paterson 91/75
Huntington 89/74
Southampton 83/72
Newark 92/77
Garden City 88/76
La G 89/76
Deer Park 87/74
JFK 87/76
Long Beach 83/76
Sandy Hook 86/76
Asbury Park 88/76
Manasquan 89/75



Toms River 92/74
Long Beach 86/75
Atlantic City 91/75
Ocean City 87/77

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

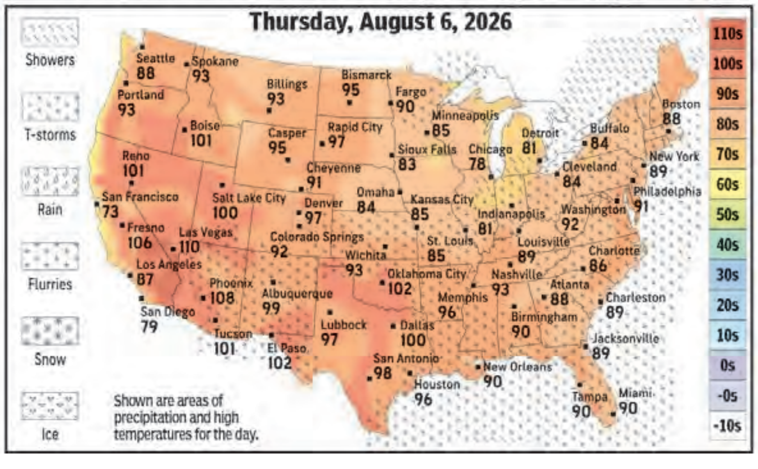
Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:57 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:06 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 11:59 p.m.
Moonset today .... 2:39 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 28	Sep 4

Thursday, August 6, 2026



Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 88
Spokane 93
Portland 93
Billings 93
Bismarck 95
Fargo 90
Minneapolis 85
Boise 101
Casper 95
Rapid City 97
Sioux Falls 83
Chicago 78
Detroit 81
Buffalo 84
Boston 88
New York 89
Reno 101
Cheyenne 91
Cleveland 84
Philadelphia 91
San Francisco 73
Salt Lake City 100
Denver 97
Omaha 84
Kansas City 85
Indianapolis 81
Washington 92
Fresno 106
Las Vegas 110
Colorado Springs 92
St. Louis 85
Louisville 89
Charlotte 86
Los Angeles 87
Wichita 93
Oklahoma City 102
Nashville 93
Phoenix 108
Albuquerque 99
Memphis 96
Atlanta 88
Charleston 89
San Diego 79
Lubbock 97
Dallas 100
Birmingham 90
Tucson 101
El Paso 102
Jacksonville 89
San Antonio 98
Houston 96
New Orleans 90
Tampa 90
Miami 90
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	1:41a	2:13p	2:43a	3:14p
Fire Island	1:40a	2:28p	2:37a	3:39p
Hempstead	5:21a	5:49p	6:26a	6:54p
Huntington	5:31a	5:56p	6:33a	6:59p
Jones Inlet	1:25a	1:57p	2:27a	2:58p
Montauk Point	2:57a	3:47p	3:59a	4:53p
Port Washington	5:19a	5:47p	6:22a	6:51p
Sandy Hook	1:45a	2:17p	2:47a	3:18p

Regional cities

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	87/71/t	86/71/t
Danbury	88/71/t	88/70/t
Glens Falls	87/67/t	85/68/t
Gr Barrington	87/66/t	85/69/t
Kingston	90/70/t	87/72/t
Liberty	84/68/t	83/66/t
Monticello	82/68/t	82/65/t
Newburgh	90/70/t	88/72/t
Poughkeepsie	88/71/t	89/69/t
Saratoga Springs	87/69/t	86/69/t
Stroudsburg	89/69/t	86/69/t
Torrington	88/70/t	87/70/t
Syracuse	86/69/t	85/70/t

World cities

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	95/75/s	93/76/s
Baghdad	120/92/pc	118/91/s
Beijing	100/78/s	99/76/t
Berlin	82/57/s	73/55/pc
Cairo	98/77/pc	97/76/pc
Dublin	67/51/c	71/54/pc
Geneva	88/63/s	87/60/s
Hong Kong	92/79/s	93/83/s
Jerusalem	87/69/s	85/68/s
Kabul	90/67/pc	89/69/pc
London	75/54/s	79/56/s
Madrid	100/73/s	102/72/s
Mexico City	77/56/r	74/57/r
Montreal	84/70/t	84/70/pc
Moscow	86/67/r	85/59/t
Paris	79/56/s	81/58/s
Rio de Janeiro	86/73/s	89/71/pc
Rome	92/73/s	93/72/s
Sydney	66/44/pc	65/45/pc
Tokyo	92/79/pc	94/79/t

Court fight is 3 into sue

Throuple breakup turns bad

By PETER SENZAMICI
and ALEX OLIVEIRA

THREESOME GLEE: In happier times are (from left) Nicole LePera, Lauren Galvin and Jenna Weakland, who is now suing the others.

Instagram/createvisions2day

There's throuple in paradise.

The married self-help influencers behind the popular Holistic Psychologist empire preached peace and trauma recovery while boasting about their "throuple" lifestyle to millions of followers, until the third wheel in their relationship sued, claiming she was abused and cheated out of a fortune.

Clinical psychologist Nicole LePera, 43, and her spouse, Lauren Galvin, 40s, creators of a mega-popular Instagram account and numerous books, are being sued by their former lover, Jenna Weakland, 30s, who claims she was erased from the brand and denied a $3.5 million payday after their Phoenix-area love nest fell apart.

Weakland alleged that she was instrumental in building the Holistic Psychologist brand, which boasts more than 9 million followers on Instagram alone. She claims she was bullied and that LePera once threw her down the stairs.

LePera and Galvin countersued, alleging that Weakland assaulted Galvin, blew $1 million in fraudulent spending and sowed chaos into their lives while being little more than a customer-service agent for the brand. They also said Weakland threatened to harm herself and pen a tell-all memoir to extort millions from them.

Both parties denied the other's accusations after their throuple fell through.

'Promise broken'

The trio started out as co-workers in 2019, with LePera and Galvin hiring Weakland on to help run their The Holistic Psychologist business, which had begun exploding from a series of popular books to a subscription-based online community called The Circle.

In 2021, LePera announced on Instagram that she and her wife were in a full blown relationship with Weakland.

The two older women promised to give her a one-third share in the business, according to the suit.

But that promise was never put to paper, and as she brought the matter up, Galvin allegedly began waging a campaign of "psychological warfare," the suit claims.

LePera and Galvin's attorney declined to comment, and Weakland's lawyer did not respond to a request for comment.

Fawning NC Rep. ends run

Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC) announced on Wednesday that he was ending his bid for a third House term, two days after the House Ethics Committee recommended he be censured by his colleagues for "unprofessional and inappropriate conduct" toward two female staffers.

"After much prayer and reflection, I've decided to withdraw from my re-election campaign," Edwards wrote in a statement posted on X at 3:30 a.m. "I will complete my current term."

Edwards, 65, a married father and grandfather, "went beyond norms of professional behavior by giving both women lavish gifts," "commenting on the two women's appearance," and "inviting them to intimate dinners and vacations," according to the 20-page report. At the time, both aides were in their early 20s.

Samuel Chamberlain

From first question to closing day

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Commute to downtown?

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Entertain with Ease

This home features a high-end primary kitchen and a dedicated secondary kitchen designed for large gatherings. The main kitchen showcases an Officine Gullo installation, while the secondary space handles overflow during entertainment.

Key kitchen and dining details include:

- **Dimensions:** The primary kitchen measures **18' x 13'**, complemented by a **19' x**
- tures include
and
ppliances.
- ntertaining: Amenities such as a **wine** cellar for **500+ bottles** and an outdoor **wood-fired pizza oven** support large-scale hosting.

Is the kitchen big enough for cooking and entertaining?

realtor.com

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AI is not professional advice. Verify important information.

Junior Jihadis

Islamist summer camps make mini martyrs

DAVID SCHENKER

AP

Indoctrinated: Mahdi Scouts in Lebanon join an anti-Israel parade.

IT'S summer camp season, when kids across America roast marshmallows and compete in games of color war. But in Lebanon, camps run by Hezbollah are preparing children for holy war instead.

Every summer, the terror group's Imam al-Mahdi Scout camps indoctrinate Shiite youth — and even offer paramilitary training to older members. Scores of former Mahdi Scouts have joined Hezbollah's ranks.

And as Israel and Lebanon continue negotiations after their recent agreement to disarm Hezbollah, this key terrorist recruitment pipeline can only undermine the slim chance for peace.

The Imam al-Mahdi Scouts, established in the mid-1980s and recognized by the Lebanese government in 1992, pledge to advance *Wilayat al Fiqih*, or the "guardianship of the jurist" — that is, the teachings of Iran's supreme leader. Primarily underwritten by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the group now boasts 75,000 registered male and female scouts.

This summer, the youngest Mahdi Scouts are busy with tug-of-war, soccer games and cooking potatoes in campfires, the group's website explains. Tween members are clearing rubble from villages and preparing care packages for Shiite children displaced by Hezbollah's latest war against Israel.

But older scouts have a different, decidedly less benign schedule. In July, teenagers and counselors took a field trip to Iran to attend the funeral of Iran's late supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khameini, who was killed on the first day of the Iran war by an Israeli airstrike.

When scouts turn 16, they're offered "literacy training" — a course in the basics of weaponry. Over the summer, the teenage scouts receive more intensive armaments training.

Early on, campers are taught the values of "resistance" and "sacrifice." In July, the group organized a ceremony to honor former scouts who graduated to join Hezbollah — and were killed while fighting Israel.

An article on the group's website reported that the celebration highlighted these terrorists' "journey in scouting . . . which culminated in martyrdom." And while there's no current tally of "martyrs," the Mahdi Scouts' own publications indicate that more than 120 of them were killed in action through 2006.

Indoctrination starts early, judging by the monthly professional-grade print and online magazines the group produces for its cadres. Preschoolers, for example, can enjoy a pencil maze that challenges them to help a rabbit find its way through a labyrinth of mines planted by Israeli "occupation soldiers," or collect stickers of Kalashnikovs and grenades.

Older kids can read about the centrality of martyrdom, illustrated by pictures of Hezbollah caskets at funerals. The education program appears to be working: In October 2025, the Mahdi Scouts organized a commemoration for former Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed by an IDF airstrike in 2024.

The event, held at a 50,000-seat Beirut stadium, may have been the largest Scout Jamboree ever — Hezbollah claimed 74,000 attended. An impressive turnout — and a message that, despite substantial losses in its war against Israel, Hezbollah still has recruits waiting to join the fight.

Over the past year, President Trump has pushed to broker a deal between Jerusalem and Beirut that will disarm Hezbollah. Washington is working closely with the Lebanese government to try to limit Iranian funding for its terror catspaw.

But there's a missing piece in the US strategy: reforming the terrorist ideology that the Mahdi Scouts put on such clear display. It will take time, nerve and political will for the weak and fractious Lebanese state to supplant Hezbollah institutions in predominantly Shiite areas.

In the meantime, just as Beirut has declared Hezbollah's weapons illegal, it must ban the Mahdi Scouts to start dismantling the aspiring-martyr pipeline. The group must also be stripped of its international legitimacy: For decades, the Mahdi Scouts have been a member organization of the Lebanese Scouting Federation.

Like Scouting America — formerly the Boy Scouts — the Lebanese Federation is a constituent member of World Scouting, the scout movement's global organization. Even an arms'-length affiliation with Scouting's official body is an embarrassment to scouts worldwide.

Finally, the Trump administration should trigger sanctions against the Mahdi Scouts by designating it as a foreign terrorist organization or as an entity that illicitly undermines Lebanon's sovereignty and stability. After all, the group openly declares allegiance to Iran's supreme leader rather than to Lebanon, and its ideological agenda threatens Beirut's aspirations for full sovereignty.

If Trump is serious about Israel-Lebanon peace, he should target Hezbollah's farm team.

David Schenker is a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

FAST TAKES

Conservative: Anna, Spare Us the Show

As the Met Gala moves to honor John Galliano after he spent years atoning for antisemitic outbursts in 2011, Commentary's Seth Mandel declares: "If the two options are 'Let Galliano have his day in the sun' or 'Let Galliano have his day in the sun but with a fashion-based exhibition on anti-Semitism curated by Anna Wintour,' my vote is for the former" — and not just because "I don't trust Wintour to teach these important lessons about Jew-hatred." Rather, "absolution" should come at the end of a long process — something that "gets skipped" in "the current political moment." So: "If Galliano's apologies have been accepted in some broad sense, then we don't need a fashion show about his Nazi blackouts." "Let the fashion world follow its exuberant heart wherever it leads it, so long as the Jews aren't props in the show."

From the right: How To Blunt Legal Pot

"For the first time on record," notes Charles Fain Lehman at The Free Press, "more Americans consume marijuana every day than smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol every day" — but that *doesn't* make pot legalization politically irreversible, because daily users account for 80% of all pot consumption. That makes marijuana more like "cigarettes: something mostly consumed by a small number of chronically dependent users," not a drug "widely consumed by infrequent, recreational consumers." So, as the public sees "the rise in cannabis use disorder and other negative health outcomes," hard-core "users may find themselves at an increasing political disadvantage." We can start on "the moderate path of taxing, regulating, and stigmatizing" pot; just as with cigs, that "doesn't preclude an eventual ban — it lays the groundwork for one."

Lawyer: Fauci Can't Have His Cake & Eat It, Too

After Anthony Fauci "invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination" 111 times in Senate testimony, Jay Town asks at The Federalist if "Fauci's invocation of the Fifth Amendment was proper, especially given his pardon from President Biden." Refusing to answer questions about his activities during the pardon-covered period "could constitute criminal contempt" of Congress. Per past Supreme Court rulings, Fauci can't have the protection of both "a pardon and the Fifth Amendment for questioning *specifically related to his prior congressional testimony during the covered period*." He may be "charged for criminal contempt of Congress because he improperly [pleaded] the Fifth." Either way, his legacy is that "of a mendacious 'megalomaniac,' starved for fame, and dripping in self-interest."

Libertarian: Kagan Warns the Court-Packers

Elena Kagan

Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, "the progressive opposition's greatest legal champion," has "sharply dissented" on key conservative legal victories and is "widely seen as the intellectual leader" of the Court's liberal bloc, observes Reason's Damon Root, yet she's also wisely "working hard to distance herself from the Court's harshest progressive critics." Kagan rejects the premise that the high court's "conservative majority is in President Donald Trump's corner," noting its rejection of Trump's tariffs among other rulings. She's plainly "worried about where the left's political winds are blowing," risking "the future independence of the judiciary." Leftist plans to pack the court would wind up undermining the Supremes' "ability to ever act as any kind of meaningful check against an overreaching president" ever again.

Labor beat: The Latest Threat to Workers

"Massachusetts certified the first American ride-share drivers union in May," allowing a "newly minted" one to rep its 70,000 ride-share drivers, laments C. Jarrett Dieterle at The Wall Street Journal. Such "sectoral bargaining" began with California's Fast Food Accountability and Standards Act and could "change union politics for decades to come" — with workers paying the price. "Hundreds of thousands of workers could become union-represented" even if they don't join, leading to labor negotiations that yield "one-size-fits-all rules" that harm some workers. The economy deserves "flexible policies that help both workers and companies." Sectoral bargaining doesn't — but it's "on the rise."

— *Compiled by The Post Editorial Board*

NEW YORK POST
America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

Democrats, Save Your Party

An insurgent Red-Green alliance is taking over the Democratic Party — whose leaders seem ready to surrender to the unholy socialist-Islamist hybrid.

Sen. Chuck "Big Tent" Schumer emerged from his hidey-hole Wednesday to endorse Abdul El-Sayed after he narrowly won the Dem nomination for Senate in Michigan, praising the fanatic anti-Zionist for his "energetic campaign."

For his part, El-Sayed — who wants Schumer ousted as Democratic Senate leader — went on MSNOW to call Israel "bloodthirsty" and an "illegal apartheid regime."

Can *anything* disqualify a candidate for Schumer's Big Tent? The party seems willing to accept anyone who can win its ballot line, no matter how much Nazi ink they sport, how many terrorists they fawn over or how much antisemitic lying they do.

Obama-era strategist David Axelrod actually argued on CNN that it's a "legitimate question" for El-Sayed to ask if "an agent of any foreign government, whether it's Israel or any other," ought to be allowed to spend "$30 million in a race like this." Kudos to *Van Jones* for calling out Axelrod's smear — it's *Americans* who fund AIPAC, not "foreign agents" — and pointing out El-Sayed's extremism: He wants to impose a complete arms embargo on the Jewish state, with the obvious aim of seeing it destroyed.

But Jones is an outlier in the progressive commentariat. Potty-mouthed broadcaster Hasan Piker is Dems' hottest campaign accessory this season, crisscrossing the country on behalf of various socialists.

Furious that 47% of Michigan Democrats voted against El-Sayed, Piker called them all "unbelievably Islamophobic pieces of s--t."

Meanwhile, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced the other day that she won't attend the state party's convention because she'd face far too much in-her-face antisemitic abuse.

Now that Schumer's embraced El-Sayed, what's next? Watch him share a stage with Piker, who says "America deserved 9/11" and writes off victims' reports of sexual violence on Oct. 7 as "rape fantasies."

Going along with the extremist takeover is bad for the Democratic Party and worse for American democracy; sane Democrats need to find the spine to stand up and fight.

Devilish Details for Mam's Groceries

The specs for Mayor Mamdani's magical city-run grocery stores demand the moon, but shoppers will be lucky to find some overripe green cheese.

The official Request For Proposals outlines an implausible wish-list that will deliver less than half what Mamdani promised at more than twice the price.

The city wants potential operators of the stores to submit specific financial plans for stocking, staffing and operating five supermarkets — when the city hasn't built any of the five, nor chosen locations for three.

These imaginary stores must be managed under a business plan out of Alice in Wonderland: No deli counter allowed, but sell fruit, tuna, bean, chicken, egg and potato salads.

The operator should have a pre-existing "cost-effective" supply chain, but also source from "local suppliers and small businesses while keeping prices low."

Staff will have to enforce who can shop: only those with a "library card-esque" customer ID card (which is nothing like a voter ID because . . . well, because).

The stores are eligible for a taxpayer-funded "Affordability Payment," a subsidy to cover the cost of selling items for 30% below retail average, but management must have experience with employee profit-sharing. Huh? If the store's finances are backstopped by the city, there's no "profit" to share.

And city officials on Wednesday were stumped by a host of *other* questions about the RFP, like who'll cover operating losses.

None of this gibberish is news to anyone familiar with how the city burns cash on contractors every year — billions to major homeless-shelter nonprofits whose leaders cash profiteer wildly, for example. The Department of Education spends more than $13 billion on vendors every year, yet refuses to release details on hundreds of contracts.

The grocery RFP takes city contracting to new heights of absurdity, but the way New York routinely does business is already insane.

Fresh Proof of Academia's Corruption

At a time when the hard left's dominance of higher education has stripped academia of public trust, the American Association of University Professors decided to "fight back" by endorsing political candidates — starting with Michigan extremist Abdul El-Sayed in his primary against Rep. Haley Stevens.

OK, the AAUP has been heading this way for years now: Its president, Todd Wolfson, called J.D. Vance a fascist in a 2024 statement; it opted to side with Hamas amid the Gaza war, abandoning its nearly two-decade-old opposition to academic boycotts.

But endorsing a guy whose comment on an attempted massacre at a Jewish day school was "Hurt people hurt people" — yoikes.

Plus, the decision turns out to be incredibly undemocratic: Turns out AAUP leaders got the key decision made on a July 14 conference call with all of about 40 members in Michigan — out of about 4,000 in the state, and over 40,000 nationwide.

So much for the "shared governance" and "collective voice" the AAUP claims to champion: This was just another hard-left coup. Then again, if the national membership doesn't revolt over this idiocy, they'll be proving that today's faculties are the true threat to US higher education.

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letters@nypost.com

NYC's E-Bike Crackdown: *Now* the City Council Cares

THE ISSUE: The City Council takes up new bills to crack down on illegal e-bikes in New York City.

Julie Menin

- I'm an avid cyclist and have personally observed numerous near-accidents on bike paths in recent months. Officials should consider legislation that would require registration for high-speed e-bikes and scooters ("E-bike terrors put on notice," Aug. 5).

E-bike safety education should be required for those who register and there should be stronger enforcement against reckless riding, speeding or illegal activities.

Paul Feiner, Greenburgh

- E-bikes that are going 40 miles per hour should be licensed and riding in the car lanes, following the rules of the road as our motorcycles do.

Bike lanes should be for non-motorized bicycles only as originally planned.

Alan Tlusty, SoHo

- As the president of the Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association, I spoke to our state and city elected officials about the danger of e-bikes and ATVs in not only our community, but every community. I asked a state official to introduce a bill in Albany to register, insure and provide licenses to people who operate these dangerous vehicles, and nothing was done.

Now, City Council Speaker Julie Menin is finally doing something about it. It's a shame that so many people have been injured or killed. In plain English: It's about time.

Kim F. Cody, Whitestone

- With all of the recent accidents and fatalities recently, *now* city officials are concerned about e-bikes. But this has been a serious problem for a few years. E-bikes are a danger to pedestrians with no consequences.

If the City Council wants to regulate e-bikes, it should allow only people over 16 to ride them, limit the bikes to speeds under 25 miles per hour and mandate insurance so riders can take responsibility for accidents.

Joseph Comperchio
Brooklyn

- Crackpot liberals in the city have spent an inordinate amount of time trying to shut down the carriage-horse industry.

Meanwhile, thousands are injured from crazed e-bike riders and 133 people have died since 2019. But the police aren't allowed to do anything because enforcement of even the most modest rules and regulations is, of course, "racist."

Jake McNicholas
Whitestone

Mam Not Wanted at Ground Zero

THE ISSUE: Families of 9/11 victims calling for Mayor Mamdani to not attend this year's memorial ceremony.

- Mayor Mamdani isn't wanted at the upcoming 9/11 services — but it's not because he is Muslim ("'Dude, we don't want you here,'" Aug. 2).

His presence is not wanted because his divisive ideology leads him to believe America got what it deserved on that horrific day. The narcissistic, unconscionable gall for him to think he'd be welcome anywhere near lower Manhattan by those still-grieving families is almost unbelievable.

This wolf-in-sheep's clothing nepo baby has revealed his authentically inauthentic self, and the families of the 9/11 victims cannot look away. Neither can the thousands of people who've signed the petition to tell this fraud to shed his crocodile tears elsewhere on 9/11.

Ray Arroyo
Westwood, NJ

- Last February, scum pelted police officers with snowballs, resulting in some officers even being hospitalized. Our good mayor thought that was hilarious as he flashed his usual radiant smile.

Perhaps those coming to the 9/11 memorial should bring eggs and tomatoes with them. Then, if Mamdani can manage to break from his embrace with terror-apologist Imam Siraj Wahhaj to be at the ceremony, those in attendance can pelt him so he can better appreciate what our cops had to endure on that winter's day.

Edward Hochman
Manhattan

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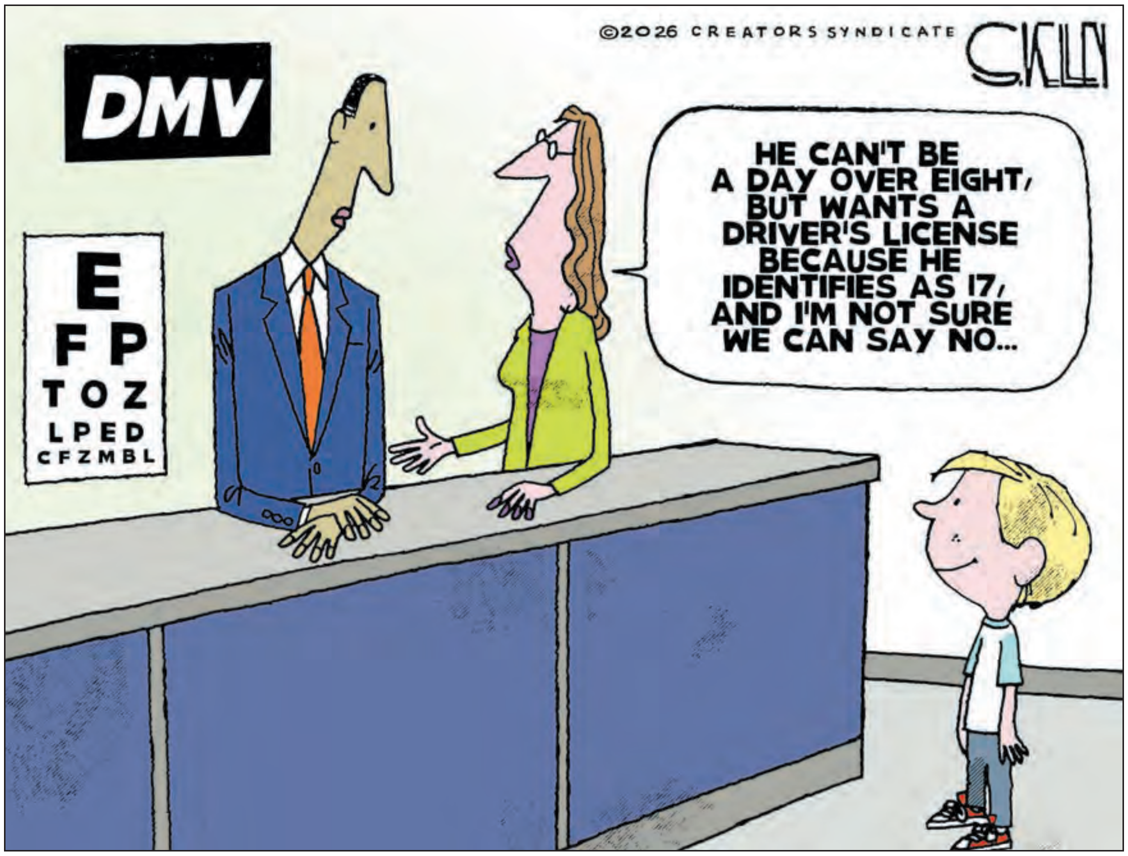
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L P E D
C F Z M B L
HE CAN'T BE A DAY OVER EIGHT, BUT WANTS A DRIVER'S LICENSE BECAUSE HE IDENTIFIES AS 17, AND I'M NOT SURE WE CAN SAY NO...

UNIONS V. KIDS — AGAIN

DANYELA S. EGOROV & JOHN KETCHAM

NEW York's teachers' unions are waging a vicious campaign against a federal program that would make education more affordable for low- and middle-income families. The reason? They don't want *any* competition — even if it comes at zero cost to public schools.

Through newspaper and TV ads and a dedicated website, the unions are spreading misinformation aimed at strong-arming Gov. Hochul into rejecting a federal tax-credit program she's promised to join. Shameless online banners and a full-page ad in Hochul's hometown Buffalo News blare, "Gov. Hochul, don't opt in to Trump's voucher scheme."

Their fearmongering aims to bully Hochul into compliance. If she cares about New York's students, she must resist.

Last year, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act created a federal tax credit of up to $1,700 for taxpayers who donate to nonprofit scholarship-granting organizations. These groups will use the donations to fund a range of K-12 educational needs for students who apply — but only if they live in states that opt in.

The inaccurate ad campaign suggests the "federal voucher scheme" drains money from public schools. That's false: For one thing, the program's funding comes entirely from the feds, not from state or local governments. It would have zero impact on the roughly $40 billion New York state spends on K-12 education annually.

The unions claim that the federal program could mean fewer kids in public schools, thereby sapping schools' funding — yet just months ago they publicly cheered Albany's recent law that provides a minimum 2% increase to all districts, regardless of enrollment.

In fact, public-school students would be eligible to receive federal scholarship money under the program to cover a range of educational needs, including after-school programs and tutoring. Students from low- and middle-income families would be first in line: About 2.7 million New York students would qualify, per the American Federation of Children.

Most attend public schools, making them among the program's biggest beneficiaries. And for families who wish to educate their kids in a private or religious educational setting, the scholarships could bring significant relief.

Even so, teachers' unions nationwide are urging Democratic governors to opt out. They'd rather deprive students of federally funded scholarships than let government money flow to non-union schools.

Unions are determined to retain their iron grip over public education, pure and simple. Yet despite their power and influence, they can't stop New Yorkers from sending money to fund scholarships for students out of state.

If Hochul opts out, Empire State taxpayers can get the $1,700 federal credit by donating to a scholarship-granting organization in a state that does join the program. That could send more than $1 billion out of New York to support students elsewhere.

Coupled with popular school-choice laws passed across the nation in recent years, this would only push more families into fleeing New York for a freer school system. Hochul knows that's a problem; that's why she's said she'll join the tax-credit program.

She's right: This state can't afford to lose more families. Its tax base, economy, and even its congressional representation depend on attracting and retaining residents.

Teachers' unions don't have such broad interests in mind. Their only goal is to minimize risks to their members, no matter the cost or the harm. And if they can get Hochul to change her mind, other Democratic governors will also hesitate. The unions' PR campaign in New York thus represents a proxy battle for blue states nationwide.

As the city faces ongoing budget problems and Mayor Mamdani asks agencies to identify savings, Hochul would be unwise to reject a large pool of new money for needy students. Instead, she should join the program now.

New Yorkers deserve the educational affordability that the unions are so determined to deny them.

Danyela Souza Egorov and John Ketcham are fellows of the Manhattan Institute.

Get Roberto Clemente His Day in Court

ILYA SHAPIRO

ROBERTO Clemente collected exactly 3,000 hits in his Hall of Fame career. Puerto Rico's government collected something else from his name: roughly $15 million.

In 2021, the commonwealth enacted laws requiring motorists to pay extra for license plates and registration tags bearing the baseball legend's name, image, jersey number 21 and references to his hit total. The money went into a government fund.

But Clemente's sons, who have spent decades preserving and licensing their father's trademark and humanitarian legacy, objected to the program — and received none of its proceeds. So with the help of the Beacon Center of Tennessee they sued under the Lanham Act, which governs trademarks, and the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause.

The US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit allowed parts of their trademark case to continue but tossed the constitutional claim, reasoning that the Supreme Court's categorical rule requiring compensation when government takes property applies only to tangible goods. A trademark, being "intangible," gets sent to the legal minor leagues: the open-ended Penn Central balancing test, under which property owners rarely score. The Supreme Court should call that distinction out — because the Constitution has never treated invisible property as a foul ball.

The Fifth Amendment says that "private property" shall not "be taken for public use, without just compensation." It says nothing about property that can be weighed, measured, fenced or stuffed into a warehouse.

At the Founding, property included incorporeal rights — franchises, easements and other valuable interests existing in law rather than in physical form. James Madison described property broadly as everything to which a person may attach value and claim a right.

> **Even a government playing on its home field must follow the rules of the game.**

Early American takings cases followed that understanding: Governments could condemn incorporeal rights, but they had to pay. In 1848, the Supreme Court rejected the attempted distinction between corporeal property and a bridge franchise as a "refinement" with "no foundation in reason." Later cases protected patents, contracts, liens, interest income and trade secrets — none of which could be carried off in a wheelbarrow.

A trademark fits in that tradition. Its commercial value rests on exclusivity: The owner decides who may use the mark, for what purpose, and on what terms.

The mark carries the goodwill built around a name or business. When an unauthorized user exploits it, the owner loses control over the association that gives the mark its value.

Puerto Rico did more than mention Clemente, honor him in a proclamation, or place his story in a museum — it put his mark on government-issued products, set a price, collected fees, and kept the money. The government stepped up to the plate as an unlicensed commercial user, then declared itself immune from the rules binding everyone else.

Supreme Court precedent already supplies the proper scorecard. In Horne v. Department of Agriculture (2015), the court held that government must pay when it appropriates personal property, just as when it takes land. And in Ruckelshaus v. Monsanto (1984), it recognized trade secrets as property protected by the Takings Clause despite their intangible nature.

The First Circuit's rule would leave the modern economy's most important assets exposed. Brands, data, trade secrets, licenses, publicity rights and business goodwill often exceed the value of a company's buildings or inventory. A constitutional doctrine that protects raisins — as in the Horne case — more securely than trademarks has lost sight of the ball.

That's why the Manhattan Institute helped file an amicus brief supporting the Clementes. Combining immunity with second-class constitutional treatment for intangible property could leave owners holding a right with no meaningful remedy after the government has already monetized it.

Roberto Clemente's legacy belongs to Puerto Rican history and culture, but his registered commercial mark still belongs to his family. The commonwealth was free to negotiate a license, seek the family's cooperation, or design a voluntary tribute; it chose instead to legislate itself permission and pocket the revenue.

The Supreme Court should take up the Clementes' case and restore the legal line that the Constitution has always drawn. Even a government playing on its home field must follow the rules of the game.

Adapted from City Journal.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A1	E1	U1	L1	L1	F4	B3		RACK 1
O1	O1	Y4	H4	K5	S1	K5	Double Word Score	RACK 2
A1	E1	O1	R1	Z10	G2	B3		RACK 3
A1	O1	O1	Y4	W4	T1	F4	1st Letter Triple	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 165-175
BEST SCORE 246

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

B3	A1	L1	E1	F4	U1	L1	RACK 1 =	62
S1	K5	Y4	H4	O1	O1	K5	RACK 2 =	92
G2	A1	Z10	E1	B3	O1		RACK 3 =	18
F4	O1	O1	T1	W4	A1	Y4	RACK 4 =	74
							TOTAL	246

PAR SCORE 165-175

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 10 9
♡ K 10 9 2
◇ K 6 3
♣ 9 5 3

WEST
♠ A 6 5 3 2
♡ 6
◇ 9 8 5 4
♣ Q J 10

EAST
♠ K 8 7 4
♡ 8 3
◇ Q J 10
♣ K 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ J
♡ A Q J 7 5 4
◇ A 7 2
♣ A 6 2

South	West	North	East
1♡	Pass	2♡	Pass
4♡	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♣ Q

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"Millard is sweet," Rose told me, "but his elevator doesn't go to the top floor. He said he saw an auto accident but he couldn't call 911 because there is no 11 on his phone."

Millard Pringle gets lost in the maze of defensive "rules." He was East, and at four hearts, South ducked the first club, won the next, led a trump to dummy and returned the nine of spades.

"I was West," Rose said. "Millard paused, trying to sort out the rules. He knew about 'second hand low,' but there also was a rule about 'covering an honor.' The nine was almost an honor, so he finally put up his king."

When the king won, Millard cashed his king of clubs and led the queen of diamonds. South lost a diamond for down one.

If Millard plays low on the first spade, South succeeds. Later, he takes a ruffing finesse against Millard's king to get a diamond discard.

Maybe Millard's play was right: If South had the ace of spades, the game might be unbeatable.

Word Force

CANDLEWICK

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 28** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
PAPERCLIP

apple
caper
clear
paler
paper
pearl
peril
piper
place
price
recap
relic

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRIESTE, ITALY **Solution: 7 letters**

O	L	I	V	E	D	N	A	R	G	L	A	N	A	C
S	E	V	O	R	G	O	T	S	U	I	G	N	A	S
L	C	S	S	D	R	A	Y	E	N	I	V	S	G	A
A	A	A	U	B	O	R	S	A	S	O	T	R	P	Z
R	R	E	L	M	A	P	I	A	T	L	O	E	P	N
U	S	N	O	A	O	L	I	T	E	T	R	B	A	I
T	O	A	R	R	A	Z	U	C	T	I	R	I	O	P
L	A	M	T	T	E	I	A	A	T	O	L	F	N	N
U	N	O	I	N	C	D	G	I	V	U	Ⓒ	R	A	A
C	I	R	E	S	U	I	V	A	I	T	Ⓐ	I	L	I
I	C	V	O	A	G	O	D	G	U	L	Ⓕ	U	U	T
T	I	R	O	A	I	A	D	L	A	C	Ⓔ	L	I	E
L	P	L	N	L	I	A	R	T	E	K	L	I	R	N
U	O	T	O	M	M	A	S	E	O	R	A	F	F	E
M	E	D	I	E	V	A	L	O	I	H	C	C	E	V

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Aperitivo, Borsa, Brovada, Café, Caldaia, Canal Grande, Carso, Castle, Faro, Friulano, Friuli, Giulia, Grotta Gigante, Groves, Gulf, Italian, Medieval, Molo Audace, Multicultural, Museo, Olive, Opicina, Pinza, Porto, Prosciutto, Rilke Trail, Roman, San Giusto, Scala, Tommaseo, Vecchio, Venetian, Venezia, Vineyards
Yesterday's Answer: Tiffany and Co

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at ***www.SudokuWiki.org***

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 40

© Syndicated Puzzles

Very Easy #7,362

		6			4	7		5
			3		6			
8	4	2		7		3	6	
			5	4				1
	7	3				5	8	
2				8	1			
	2	8		3		6	1	7
			2		7			
9		7	6			4		

Difficult #7,152

9			2					
		4				6		
		2	7		5	8		
7					9			6
6			3		4			5
5			1					3
		5	9		8	1		
		1				4		
					3			9

Quick Crossword

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10	■	11	12	13
14				■	15						■	16		
17				18				○	○	○	■	19 ○		
20						■	■	21			22			
■	■	23				24	25		■	26				
27	28			○	■	29 ○	○	○	30 ○					■
31				■	32			■	33			■	■	■
34			■	35				36			■	37	38	39
■	■	■	40			■	41			■	42			
■	43	44				45 ○	○	○	■	46 ○	○			
47					■	48			49				■	■
50					51		■	■	52				53	54
55			■	56			57	58						
59			■	60						■	61			
62			■	63						■	64			

Across
1 "To ___ their own"
5 One with a supporting role?
11 Giggle syllable
14 Potatoes, in Indian dishes
15 Nutty Italian cheese
16 Verbal fillers
17 "I want all the juicy details!"
19 Was introduced to
20 Tightens (up)
21 "If I had to bet ... "
23 "Use your umbrella!"
26 "Aladdin" figure
27 Features of some old socks
29 Figure skating jump that has only been landed in competition by Ilia Malinin
31 Feature of some old socks
32 Replay reviewer
33 First aid pro
34 With 37-Across, place for a pawdicure
35 Emoji from one who's down
37 See 34-Across
40 Fitting
41 "Gross!"
42 Inner workings
43 Makes a clutch putt, perhaps
46 Key mistakes?
47 Heart chambers
48 "Want to play again?"
50 Global spirits giant that began as a rum maker in Cuba
52 Oscars, e.g.
55 Pretend
56 Wildly successful, or what three black squares in this puzzle literally are
59 ___ lodge
60 Like loose laces
61 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
62 "Exit full screen" key
63 Get cozy
64 Cries noisily

Down
1 Direction that plays first in mahjong
2 Mont Blanc, par exemple
3 Place that welcomes change?
4 Wild West costume accessory
5 Easy mark
6 Kinda sorta
7 Falsehood
8 "Stay the Night" singer Jackson
9 Like 15-Across
10 Occasion to wear away uniforms
11 Compassionate
12 Celebrity chef with a flagship restaurant in New Orleans
13 Cosmetician Lauder
18 Grassy expanses
22 Message one may wish to open in private
24 Kicked out of a competition, briefly
25 Scoundrel
27 Word with bell or bar
28 Lines of praise
30 Dealer's handful
32 "Aw, shoot!"
35 Free diver's weapon
36 Unit of farmland
37 Id counterpart
38 Vacation hrs.
39 Pack animal
40 Nike rival
42 Takes turns?
43 Library area
44 Powerfully cold
45 Score units
46 AAA offerings
47 Take down a peg
49 Apatow of "Euphoria"
51 Copenhagen native
53 Lacking pizzazz
54 Form W-2 digits
57 "Scram!"
58 ___ canto

B	O	T	C	H	■	H	E	A	D	■	M	C	R	I	B
A	C	H	O	O	■	A	N	T	E	■	O	H	A	N	A
S	T	A	R	T	F	R	O	M	S	C	R	A	T	C	H
T	A	N	K	T	O	P	S	■	I	R	E	P	E	A	T
E	L	K	■	E	R	S	■	O	R	A	L	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	A	K	E	T	H	E	P	L	U	N	G	E
A	C	L	U	■	S	A	I	D	■	S	O	N	O	R	A
B	O	U	N	D	■	L	E	E	S	■	S	I	T	A	R
E	M	C	E	E	S	■	R	A	M	S	■	T	E	M	P
L	E	A	R	N	T	H	E	R	O	P	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	A	R	I	D	■	O	I	L	■	A	H	I
P	E	L	O	T	O	N	■	A	C	T	O	F	G	O	D
S	T	E	P	U	P	T	O	T	H	E	P	L	A	T	E
I	C	I	E	R	■	A	L	O	E	■	E	A	V	E	S
S	H	A	D	E	■	T	A	M	S	■	S	P	E	L	T

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER
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Dow Jones Indust. Avg. Up 263.24 54,349.12

Nasdaq Comp. Down 221.55 26,363.44

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dow record

A new round of strong earnings reports powered the Dow to a fresh high on Wednesday. The blue-chip index rose for the fifth straight day, climbing 263 points, or 0.5%. US oil prices fell nearly 1% to $75.22 a barrel.

Hiring slows

Hiring by private-sector employers grew less than expected in July, human-resources company ADP said. Private companies added a net 44,000 jobs in July after adding a revised 95,000 jobs in June.

Etsy layoffs

Etsy is cutting 220 jobs, or roughly 12% of its workforce, as it tries to adapt its marketplace to changing online-shopping habits. Etsy said the cuts weren't driven by cost-cutting initiatives or artificial intelligence.

Burger tempts

Shake Shack stock surged 12% after the head of Starboard Value said the activist investment firm has built a stake in the burger brand. Shake Shack reported higher second-quarter sales.

Bieber shines

Hailey Bieber's Rhode brand helped lift E.l.f. Beauty's sales by 36% in the quarter to $479.4 million. Rhode was acquired for $1 billion a year ago.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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NEIMAN MEANIES

Retailer sacked att'y after cancer diagnosis

By LISA FICKENSCHER

Neiman Marcus allegedly bungled multiple workplace complaints from senior execs, including a lawyer who claims she was hospitalized for clinical depression caused by "unsustainable" work demands and later was fired after she was diagnosed with brain cancer, The Post has learned.

Seasoned attorney Erin Borg claims Neiman Marcus overwhelmed her with work from the time of her hiring in 2022. The chain allegedly chintzed on support staff and tolerated her hostile co-workers, then looked the other way when she complained, according to a court filing obtained by The Post.

Following her bout of depression, Borg was diagnosed with glioblastoma and had to go on leave, only to be kicked to the curb when coming back from chemotherapy treatment last year after Neiman Marcus' parent company was acquired, according to the filing.

"It simply broke me," she told The Post.

Hell of a job

Neiman Marcus

It simply broke me.
— lawyer Erin Borg

Former Neiman Marcus lawyer Erin Borg (far left) said in court documents that co-worker Thomas Mattei was hostile to her and made an inappropriate joke about E. Jean Carroll's suit against President Trump. She also said her boss overloaded her with work.

LinkedIn; AP

At least 4 complaints

Borg, 46, is among at least four former in-house lawyers who lodged formal complaints, alleging a hostile work environment, a former Neiman Marcus executive who is not associated with Borg told The Post. Two of the complaints resulted in settlements, the source said.

Borg's stint at Neiman Marcus included a colleague, Thomas Mattei, who Borg claims in the court docs was openly hostile towards her and joked about E. Jean Carroll's sexual-assault case against President Trump. He suggested that the retailer "capitalize" on the case since the alleged assault took place in the dressing room of Neiman Marcus sister company Bergdorf Goodman, according to the filing in federal bankruptcy court.

She lodged several complaints with the company about Mattei and her boss, Hannah Kim, who buried her with work, the filing stated.

"This seems to point to a failure of leadership overall at the company," the source said, referring to the number of employment complaints.

The company denied every allegation in Borg's complaint, in a filing in the arbitration proceeding last year. Neiman Marcus, Kim and Mattei did not answer requests for comment.

Geoffroy van Raemdonck was the chief executive of Neiman Marcus during Borg's tenure from 2022 to 2025, with Saks Global acquiring the company in December 2024. He became CEO of the merged entity during its bankruptcy earlier this year. The company, which exited bankruptcy in June, has since been renamed Exemplar Luxury Group.

Borg initiated arbitration proceedings against Neiman Marcus, Mattei and Kim in July 2025. She alleged she had been pushed out of the company months earlier for formally complaining to the HR department and to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission about Mattei's alleged behavior and the subsequent retaliation against her, according to the filing.

Borg is now including her original complaint as part of Saks Global's bankruptcy case, urging the court to make sure she can collect a future arbitration award from any available insurance proceeds. The claim does not specify the amount of damages she is seeking.

She is trying to fast-track her case as she continues to battle stage-four cancer, for which she flies to Germany for treatment.

lfickenscher@nypost.com

Watchdog ups push to end ABC licenses

A conservative media watchdog on Wednesday doubled down on its push for FCC Chair Brendan Carr to end ABC's TV licenses, comparing the network to a "squatter" for feeling an "entitlement" to the public airwaves, The Post has learned.

"ABC's filing boils down to a squatter's rights argument: Once it occupies the public airwaves, it believes no one can question whether it deserves to stay," said David Bozell, president of Media Research Center, which submitted a new regulatory filing. "But broadcast licenses are not permanent entitlements. They are temporary privileges conditioned on serving the public interest.

"Our reply demonstrates that ABC largely avoids the documented evidence of partisan electioneering, misinformation and programming that minimizes or excuses political violence," he said.

ABC clapped back last week in its own regulatory filing, accusing Carr of "attempted censorship" and tearing into the filings from the MRC and the Center for American Rights.

The FCC has been reviewing eight of Disney's broadcast licenses, including ABC channels in New York and Los Angeles.

Taylor Herzlich

SpaceX stock plunges 14%

SpaceX shares tanked nearly 14% Wednesday after it revealed a massive jump in spending on AI investments, adding to Wall Street jitters over a possible "AI bubble."

In its first earnings report as a public company Tuesday, Elon Musk's rocket-launch firm said its capital expenditures jumped sixfold in the second quarter to $18.4 billion, with the majority going toward AI infrastructure.

The stock hit a record closing low of $108.27 Wednesday, below its $135 IPO price and its roughly $200 all-time high that was hit shortly after its record-breaking market debut in June, which raised $86 billion.

SpaceX also disclosed a 92% surge in revenue and a smaller-than-expected loss of $541 million in the second quarter, but investors were more concerned about its massive spending plans.

Since its IPO, SpaceX's stock has plummeted more than 20%, wiping out roughly $500 billion in value.

After its earnings report, SpaceX, which has touted grand ambitions like building data centers in space and colonizing Mars, also served up an optimistic forecast as Musk (right) said the company would hit $1 trillion in annual revenue in 2030, sooner than a previous forecast of 2031.

Taylor Herzlich

News Corp hits a record

News Corp, the parent company of The Post, posted its highest profitability on record Wednesday, driven by growth in its Dow Jones, digital real estate and book-publishing divisions.

The New York-based media giant said its fourth-quarter revenue grew 11% to $2.34 billion, beating analyst expectations.

News Corp saw $230 million from continuing operations, or 33 cents a share, a 167% increase compared with $86 million in the prior year.

"We concluded fiscal 2026 with an exceptional fourth-quarter performance," CEO Robert Thomson said in a statement.

"Our record performance is a product of sustained focus on, and reinvestment in, News Corp's core growth engines and our transformation to a digital-first company underpinned by insightful and trusted content," he added.

During the quarter, News Corp's financial results were powered by a 7% jump in revenue to $644 million at its Dow Jones unit, which publishes The Wall Street Journal and MarketWatch.

Thomson, who previously ripped AI companies for failing to pay enough for content, touted News Corp's artificial-intelligence partnerships with OpenAI and Meta.

Alexandra Steigrad

NYT expects slow growth

The New York Times reported higher profit and revenue for the second quarter, but its shares tumbled 13% as the company forecast slower subscriber growth in the current quarter.

Wednesday marked the stock's worst one-day loss since 2012.

The company said it added about 280,000 net digital-only subscribers from the prior quarter, its smallest sequential increase in a year. Revenue climbed 11% to $762.5 million, topping Wall Street expectations.

Dow Jones

Colbert's kid quits

Producer daughter resigns from '60 Mins.'

By ARIEL ZILBER

Stephen Colbert's daughter has resigned from "60 Minutes," becoming the latest behind-the-scenes producer to leave the venerable newsmagazine as it grapples with a talent exodus, an unaired Jeffrey Epstein investigation and mounting scrutiny of its future ownership.

Madeleine Carlisle, 30, a well-regarded associate producer who joined the show after reporting stints at Time and The Atlantic, resigned from the broadcast in recent days, according to Status.

Carlisle left just months after the network pulled the plug on her father's top-rated "Late Show," ending his 11-season run on May 21. CBS called the cancellation a "purely financial decision."

CBS and Carlisle both declined to comment on her departure.

Following dad out the door

Madeleine Carlisle, daughter of former "Late Show' host Stephen Colbert, has resigned as an associate producer from CBS's "60 Minutes" about two months after the network canceled Colbert's show.

Getty Images

Her exit comes as multiple producers have left the program since the May defenestrations of veterans on the team, according to Status, an outlet that covers the news media, entertainment and tech.

The ouster of journos including correspondents Sharyn Alfonsi and Cecilia Vega, along with Executive Producer Tanya Simon and Executive Editor Draggan Mihailovich, has since been come to be called "Black Thursday" by remaining staffers.

Additional departures are potentially looming as "60 Minutes" prepares to return next month under the leadership of CBS News Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss and Executive Producer Nick Bilton, Status reported.

The latest personnel shake-up coincides with fresh questions surrounding an unaired Epstein story.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) says he sat for an interview with Alfonsi in March as part of a planned segment on the relationship between big banks and Epstein. Neither the interview nor the broader story was broadcast before the season concluded in May.

CBS confirmed to The Post that Alfonsi interviewed Wyden for a potential segment, but said the full story did not come together for airing last season.

"We air pieces when they are ready and suggesting that an interview is being 'suppressed' for any reason is categorically false," a CBS News spokesperson said.

'Story' drives Disney Q3

Disney said the success of "Toy Story 5" extended beyond the box office in the June quarter, as the hit film fueled sales of merchandise, boosted engagement on the Disney+ streaming service and attracted more theme-park visitors.

Shares of the company rose more than 3% Wednesday.

CEO Josh D'Amaro, who took over in March, highlighted his strategy to invest in franchises like Toy Story to reach audiences outside the box office.

Fiscal third-quarter revenue rose 7% to $25.2 billion, shy of estimates.

Separately, Disney and TikTok announced a deal that will allow TikTok creators to use characters and scenes from Disney movies and TV shows in short-form videos, the first agreement of its kind between the social-media platform and a traditional media company.

Reuters

Salad and Go belly-up

Fast-casual chain Salad and Go is shutting down operations and seeking to sell its real-estate footprint in bankruptcy after its rapid expansion and a nationwide cyclosporiasis outbreak undermined its turnaround.

Parent company And Go Concepts filed for Chapter 11 on Tuesday, listing up to $1 billion in liabilities. The company asked the bankruptcy court to approve its proposal to sell at least 51 of its drive-through location leases to Dutch Bros Coffee's parent company, Boersma Bros, for $105 million in cash, according to filings with the federal Bankruptcy Court in Houston on Tuesday.

The chain, which has locations in Arizona and Nevada, was already facing liquidity challenges when cases of explosive diarrhea caused by the cyclospora parasite began to jump last month.

Dow Jones

JEFF DEAN
Leaving to form startup.

Google shuffles AI team

Google on Wednesday revealed an overhaul of its AI leadership, as its chief scientist for nearly three decades exits — the latest in a string of high-profile departures to plague the tech giant in its struggle to pull ahead in the artificial-intelligence race.

Demis Hassabis, CEO of Google DeepMind, will become the company's chairman and chief scientist, while Google DeepMind's technology chief, Koray Kavukcuoglu, will lead work on Google's new Gemini 4 model, Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced in a post on X.

Jeff Dean — Google's current chief scientist and one of the company's first employees, working there for 27 years — is leaving to start his own AI startup, Discovery Loop, with three other company veterans, according to a company blog post.

Google's owner, Alphabet, will invest in Discovery Loop. *Taylor Herzlich*

Meta has a new Muse

Meta Platforms wants in on Silicon Valley's hottest product du jour: coding agents.

The company on Wednesday announced a new coding agent, called Muse Code, that it is pitching as a cheaper alternative to competitors.

Coding agents allow AI users to develop projects and complete software engineering work without having to write code themselves. Anthropic and OpenAI have similar offerings. *Dow Jones*

BANKS GOT HIS BACK

Keep faith in AI whiz despite financial falter

On the money
CHARLES GASPARINO

REPORTS of the demise of the "Nostradamus of AI," a k a **Leopold Aschenbrenner**, may well be exaggerated, On the Money has learned.

Just ask his prime brokers.

That's the word from the Wall Street banks that perform this vital function for hedge funds — part of the same smart-money crowd caught off guard last week by Aschenbrenner's tremendous one-month implosion when his leverage-fueled binge on artificial-intelligence shares went south.

It was the whipsaw for the ages: Aschenbrenner's fund, Situational Awareness, seemed to crater overnight: After recording a 1,000% return since its inception in 2024, it fell a whopping 67% in just a month and needed to unload billions of its holdings to stay afloat.

But as of this week, Aschenbrenner's baby isn't dead, despite its well-publicized days-long flame-out in which nearly all its public holdings went to Citadel in a fire sale. Yes, the fund is down to $10 billion in assets from its high of $45 billion, but even with his massive puke, he's still up around 80% for the year.

Morgan Stanley
J.P.Morgan
citi
Goldman Sachs
BANK OF AMERICA

Still in the game

Big banks are still boosters of AI ace Leopold Aschenbrenner's Situational Awareness hedge fund in spite of a one-month implosion when his artificial-intelligence investments plunged 67% and he had to have a fire sale to stay afloat.

Still in the top 50

And, remember, $10 billion is still a decent chunk of money, keeping him among the top 50 hedge funds in the country, Wall Streeters tell me.

It's why Aschenbrenner's prime brokers — the Wall Street firms that are essential for hedge funds to operate because they handle so-called back-office needs — are still keen to stand behind him, sources tell On the Money.

My sources note, for example, Aschenbrenner still has his $5 billion private stake in **Dario Amodei**'s AI developer, Anthropic, that has been preparing to go public, and his fund has lock-ups that make it difficult for big investors like Jane Street to simply pull all their cash.

For that reason, some of the world's most prestigious banks — JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America and Citigroup — haven't yet cut off prime broker ties with the humbled Nostradamus of AI, I am told. At Morgan Stanley, meanwhile, the prime brokerage folks had planned to onboard Situational Awareness to their platform in September. As of publication, it has no plans to stop, my sources say.

Reps for these banks declined to comment, but wouldn't deny their continued interest in Aschenbrenner's fund as prime brokers. Situational Awareness didn't comment.

Wall Street likes to make money, but it always worries about reputational risk, particularly doing business with risk-takers on steroids.

That said, Wall Street is filled with second acts: Before **Larry Fink** became the investment sage running money-management behemoth BlackRock, he famously lost his shirt as a trader at the old First Boston. That humbling experience turned him into one of the best risk managers in the business.

Aschenbrenner is obviously smart (he graduated from Columbia at just 19 years of age) and equally humbled, so don't count him out. The smart money on Wall Street hasn't, at least not yet.

Uber bullish on robotaxis

Uber Technologies on Wednesday outlined plans to spend more than $10 billion on robotaxis over the coming years and said Waymo remained an important partner despite reports that the Alphabet unit was considering ending their alliance.

Shares fell 5% after the company issued a weak profit forecast.

Second-quarter revenue rose 12% to $14.19 billion, narrowly missing estimates.

CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said he expected Uber and Waymo to continue operating together in Austin and Atlanta, while the ride-hailing company expanded ties with other autonomous vehicle developers. *Reuters*

Hackers hit Wall St. firms

Hackers attempted a series of sophisticated cyberattacks on major Wall Street financial-services firms and money managers in recent days, targeting their information systems, sources say.

Some of the world's largest hedge funds, along with several private-equity firms, were targeted.

The hacking attempts featured phone calls in which cybercriminals tried to trick employees into granting them access or handing over other sensitive information, the sources said.

Steve Cohen's Point72 Asset Management told investors Wednesday that it had faced an attack from hackers, one source said, adding that the firm indicated no customer information was stolen.

The hackers also attempted to breach information systems at other hedge funds, including Two Sigma Investments and Citadel, the sources said. *Reuters*

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, TERENCE GEE, Auctioneer, JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, Auctioneer, or STEPHAN MARCELIN, Auctioneer, will sell at public auction with reserve to the highest bidder, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007 on August 25, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., security consisting of 78 shares of 322 E. 14TH ST. OWNERS CORP., in the name of JOHN CRAIGMILE, and all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease for Cooperative, located in a building known as and by the street address 322 EAST 14TH STREET, APT 2R, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003, JOHN CRAIGMILE, as Lessees, and 322 E. 14TH ST. OWNERS CORP., as Lessor.

This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of Newrez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated April 26, 2010, executed by and between JOHN CRAIGMILE and BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 21, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY
120 White Plains Road
Suite 215
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 345-3020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CO-OP APARTMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, STEPHAN G. MARCELIN, Auctioneer, JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, Auctioneer, or TERENCE GEE, Auctioneer, will sell at public auction with reserve to the highest bidder, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007 on August 25, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., security consisting of 138 shares of VICTORIA OWNERS CORP., in the name of RAYMOND FINK AND MARYL FRANK, and all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease for Cooperative, located in a building known as and by the street address 7 EAST 14TH STREET, APARTMENT #1028, NEW YORK - 10003, RAYMOND FINK AND MARYL FRANK, as Lessees, and VICTORIA OWNERS CORP., as Lessor.

This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF III ACQUISITION TRUST (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated August 11, 2014, executed by and between RAYMOND FINK AND MARYL FRANK and LUXURY MORTGAGE CORP. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 15, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY
120 White Plains Road
Suite 215
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 345-3020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CO-OP APARTMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, STEPHAN G. MARCELIN, Auctioneer, JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, Auctioneer, or TERENCE GEE, Auctioneer, will sell at public auction with reserve to the highest bidder, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007 on August 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., security consisting of 165 shares of PROSPECT OWNERS CORP., in the name of KEMAR L. SWABY, and all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease for Cooperative, located in a building known as and by the street address 45 TUDOR CITY PL, APT. 516, NEW YORK, NY 10017, KEMAR L. SWABY, as Lessees, and PROSPECT OWNERS CORP., as Lessor.

This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of SELENE FINANCE, LP (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated October 3, 2023, executed by and between KEMAR L. SWABY and JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 15, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
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My sister Is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. She is suffering on dialysis, which will eventually end her life; blood type is O+. Average wait time in NY 1s 7 years. If anyone wants to help by being a kidney donor, Please email me at s imoner451@outlook .com. God bless you.

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of SINNERMAN RECORDS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/10/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to REGISTERED AGENTS INC: 418 BROADWAY, STE R, ALBANY, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SEALED BIDS will be publicly opened by the DEPT. OF SHARED SERVICES, COUNTY OF NASSAU, at its office, 1 West Street, Mineola, New York 11501 at 11:00 A.M. (EST) on the date(s) indicated below.
Bid Opening Date:
August 18, 2026
1. **Tank Alarm Repair Service Re-Bid.**
August 20, 2026
1. **Multi-Site Gateway (Non-Production).**
All bids must be made on DEPT. OF SHARED SERVICES bidding sheets only, subject to all County terms, conditions and detailed specifications which must be downloaded @https://eproc.nassaucountyny.gov/Login
Dated: August 6, 2026 at Mineola, New York

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NEW YORK POST

Traoré eyes being part of NYCFC history

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

If there's one thing that New York City FC forward Bénie Traoré has gotten used to during his soccer career, it's moving.

At 23 years old, the Ivory Coast international has already played for Swedish club Häcken, Sheffield United when it was in the Premier League, French side Nantes and Basel in Switzerland. Now he's made his way to the Big Apple as NYCFC's newest designated player during the World Cup break in June.

Thursday
SANTOS LAGUNA AT NYCFC
7:30 p.m.
Apple TV

While Traoré has already traversed the globe during his young soccer career, he does like to keep a little taste of home with him.

"I like the food from my country and I already found it in New York, that's a good one," Traoré said during a sit-down interview that included The Post at NYCFC's offices in Manhattan.

But if anyone thinks Traoré is here to sightsee around the city, they would be sorely mistaken. The forward said he hadn't explored much of the city yet — the club took him to the observation deck at SUMMIT One Vanderbilt on Monday as part of a promotional shoot — and Traoré described himself as someone who doesn't "go out a lot."

"I just want to be around my people, play my football and go home," he said.

Traoré will get plenty of chances to play his game as New York City FC enters a particularly crowded part of the schedule. The club will play in a pair of Leagues Cup matches Thursday against Santos Laguna and Sunday against Cruz Azul, and then another Aug. 13 before returning to MLS regular-season play later that week.

Traoré has already appeared in all three of NYCFC's matches since the World Cup break ended, though he has yet to score a goal. The Ivorian insisted that first goal for his new club is "coming soon," and sporting director Todd Dunivant seemed to like what he's seen thus far from the recent acquisition.

"He can bring not just goals, but he can also provide assists, he's got good vision, he's a playmaker. Again, we haven't seen the best of him yet, but you've seen some moments of brilliance from him," Dunivant said, while mentioning the club had tried to bring Traoré in during the winter transfer window. "I think we're really excited about Bénie and continuing to get him ramped up. Pascal's done a really good job of managing him in this early phase so that he's set up for success, which ultimately is about the long term for us."

Traoré has some long-term goals of his own with New York City FC, which was part of the draw to the MLS club.

NYCFC is in its 11th season, meaning that there is ample opportunity to make his way into the history books for the club.

"I wanted to be part of a project like this in my career. I had the opportunity to do it and I jumped on it," he said.

carnold1@nypost.com

Bénie Traoré

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day | **Risk Tolerance (7th)**
Lock Record: 9 for 19 (47%)
Meet Record: 52/202 $337.40

1 — 1 mile; $37,000; clm($12,500); 4up

Robby Albarado, who rode 5,222 winners, died Tuesday. He was 52. Albarado recently had a stent placed to clear a blockage near his heart, but no further details about his death were available. Albarado guided 39 Grade 1 winners home including Curlin, Mineshaft and Banshee Breeze.

In the opener...**INTERLOCK EMPIRE** scored at this distance then 3 lengths short in a longer 60k. Gets back to business. Irad picks up the shipper for Maker. **GOLDEN SYMPHONY** moves lower for Rice after a vanilla 7th. Won at Aqueduct in June. **THRILL OF IT** is 0 for 13 over the last 2 years. Wide 4th racing for 20k last out. Races off the Ferraro claim. Zayas subs for Rodriguez who moves to **SCREAMING UNCLE**.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Shipsational(L),121	D Davis	4-4-2	Atras	8-1
2	Expensive Cut(L),121	S Gonzalez	5-3-2	Kantarmaci	5-1
3	Interlock Empire(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	5-1-2	Maker	7-5
4	Golden Symphony(L),123	M Franco	7-2-1	Rice	3-1
5	Superpower(L),123	R Gutierrez	7-6-1	Charlerie	20-1
6	Thrill of It(L),121	E Zayas	4-5-2	Ferraro	12-1
7	Screaming Uncle(L),121	J Rodriguez	7-4-4	Charlerie	15-1
8	First Trumpet(L),123	J Ortiz	6-6-7	Giangiulio	6-1

2 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $115,000; mdn; 2YO

Two-year-olds on the turf to back-end the double. **MONACO CROWN** finished strong, a length short at Colonial. Sprint to route; Santana on; blinkers on. **AL MOWASHAAH** (Cox/Irad) and **PAREA** (Maker/Prat) make their grass debuts after finishing last on dirt. **HOWARDS HOPE** (Depaz/Franco/Karakontie) and **CAPTAIN GEORGE** (Green/Rodriguez/War Of Will) are live first-timers.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	All About Soul,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Ferraro	8-1
2	Monaco Crown,123	R Santana, Jr	4-x-x	Salomon	5-1
3	Howard's Hope,123	M Franco	x-x-x	De Paz	9-2
4	Solo Stryker,123	C Elliott	x-x-x	Friedman	20-1
5	Al Mowashaah,123	I Ortiz, Jr	4-x-x	Cox	5-2
6	Mendel,123	J Velazquez	7-x-x	Giddings	15-1
7	Parea,123	F Prat	10-x-x	Maker	10-1
8	Papa Brez,123	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	Green	10-1
9	Roadhouse Warrior,123	S Bridgmohan	9-x-x	Giddings	30-1
10	Captain George,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Green	6-1
11	Motorcycle Cop,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Atras	15-1
12	Zack the Grey,123	M Franco	5-x-x	Rodriguez	5-1

3 — 7 fur; $50,000; mdn clm($35,000); 3up

Wide trip for **KINGS LANDYN** but he still managed to debut 3rd at 20-1. Offers fair value again; same distance. **CHRISS SONG** (Rice) was 4th and **EASEMYWORRIEDMIND** (Hennig) was 7th at Aqueduct. Chris's Song should get more out of the extra furlong. Changes on Easemyworriedmind: Gaffalione on..blinkers on..1st time gelding.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Chris's Song(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-3-6	Rice	9-2
2	Easemyworriedmind(L),122	T Gaffalione	7-8-4	Hennig	10-1
3	How Much Is Enough(L),122	D Davis	7-x-x	Rice	6-1
4	Bye for Now(L),112	C Hargrove	5-5-x	Handal	10-1
5	Always Honest(L),122	K Carmouche	4-6-3	Jimenez	8-1
6	Recurring Revenue(L),126	M Franco	6-8-x	C Brown	6-1
7	Montosoli(L),126	E Zayas	10-x-x	James Bond	15-1
8	Kings Landyn(L),122	R Gutierrez	3-x-x	Miceli	8-1
9	Mo Mahomie(L),122	C Elliott	2-4-4	Breed	15-1
10	Ours to Start(M),122	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Weaver	10-1
11	Bargain Purchase(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	4-7-x	Atras	5-1
12	Rocolino(L),122	K Davis	10-8-6	Shivmangal	30-1

4 — 6 fur; $37,000; clm($12,500); 4up(f)

Wide open. **TOP OF THE TABLE** missed the break and never factored at Finger Lakes. Ran well previous 3 at Aqueduct including an off the pace win. Franco rides for Rice. **JACKSONS DIXIE** load off a no-excuses 7th. Handy wire-to-wire winner racing for 16k in March. **SHORT SHIFT** is 0 for 6 this year. About 4 lengths short, this distance in June. Usings in deep exotics with **IRISH JACKSON** who rallied to win at Finger Lakes. Irish can get up again but can she outkick Top of the Table?

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Jackie the Joker(L),123	J Lezcano	8-1-1	Ferraro	9-2
2	Play Good Pay Good(L),123	F Prat	6-1-1	Englehart	10-1
3	City Blocks(L),121	S Gonzalez	4-2-7	Kantarmaci	5-1
4	Short Shift(L),121	E Zayas	7-5-5	Kantarmaci	6-1
5	Open Soul Autism(L),123	H Harkie	1-6-4	Kantarmaci	12-1
6	Top of the Table(L),121	M Franco	6-2-3	Rice	4-1
7	Irish Jackson(L),123	C Elliott	1-4-2	Falcone	6-1
8	Jackson's Dixie(L),123	R Santana, Jr	7-3-5	R Dutrow	7-2
9	Shezanarcticqueen(L),121	R Gutierrez	4-2-6	Jones	20-1

5 — 5 1/2 fur(T); $56,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up

A tired 5th for **HIGH LEVERAGE** and Keri Brion has him retreat to a sprint. Nose shy racing 6/8 previously. Irad a good sign. **SPEIGHTFUL STORM** Length short with similar. Moves forward if we're off turf. **SIR WALTA** makes 3YO debut for Duggan. Led, settled for 3rd at the Big A in November. May need race; may not look back. 1st time lasix. **EYE ON THE BALL** and **MYKONOS** ran home 2-3 this distance here in July.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Charlie My Boy(L),122	C Elliott	4-3-3	Barrow	15-1
2	High Leverage(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	5-2-5	Brion	3-1
3	Twenty One Red(L),122	J Rodriguez	5-3-8	Weaver	8-1
4	Until Last Call(L),126	M Franco	9-4-5	Ryerson	15-1
5	Strobe Light(L),126	L Saez	8-8-5	Ferraro	30-1
6	Sir Walta(M),122	J Castellano	3-9-5	Duggan	6-1
7	Pilot Knob(L),122	E Zayas	6-5-9	B Brown	15-1
8	Eye On the Ball(L),122	D Davis	2-3-9	Handal	5-1
9	Make a Prediction(M),122	R Santana, Jr	8-3-3	B Brown	6-1
10	Tizlawry(L),122	J Lezcano	11-8-5	Englehart	15-1
11	Mykonos(L),122	F Prat	3-5-2	Maker	9-2
12	Speightful Storm(L),126	E Zayas	3-8-3	James Bond	2-1
13	Three Two Won(M),122	F Prat	12-x-x	Maker	6-1
14	Crazy Busted(M),122	D Davis	x-x-x	B Brown	8-1

6 — 6 fur; $90,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

Two-year-old fillies, many making their career debuts. Our order of finish **CREAM OF THE CROP** (Begg/Davis/Nashville), **CAPODOST** (Cox/Irad/Nashville), **DOTSY** (Grabowkski/Carmouche/Tacitus), **JUANA MARGARITA** (McPeek/J Ortiz/Greatest Honour) and **HAMMERS NICKEL** (Handal/Prat/Classic Empire).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dotsy,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Grabowski	20-1
2	Beach Belle,123	T Gaffalione	x-x-x	Beckman	8-1
3	We Goin,123	K Davis	4-x-x	A Dutrow	15-1
4	My Sweet 'Em,123	J Castellano	x-x-x	Duggan	20-1
5	Cream of the Crop,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Begg	8-1
6	Hammers Nickel,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Handal	6-1
7	Capodost,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	5-2
8	Goodproblemtohave,123	J Rodriguez	3-x-x	Green	4-1
9	Gustavia,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Sano	20-1
10	Cody's Approval,123	M Franco	10-x-x	Trombetta	8-1
11	Juana Margarita,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	McPeek	8-1

7 — 1 mile(T); $120,000; alw; 3up

Outkicked. **RISK TOLERANCE** led late but lost by a neck at Aqueduct. Retreats to distance of last win. **FOUNDERS** MTO. **CUANDO** is 1 for 24. The W earned at a mile last September. Carmouche puts the longshot on the lead at a price. **DEEP MANHATTAN** Won-n-done. Debuted with a W at Fair Grounds in November of 2024. Does DeVaux' colt need a race? J Ortiz will know. **MARKET TIMING** went dirt to turf and responded with a 10 length maiden breaker at Monmouth. Fast, but will have plenty of company on the front end.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Market Timing(L),126	D Davis	1-6-x	C Brown	6-1
2	Deep Manhattan(L),126	J Ortiz	1-x-x	DeVaux	9-2
3	Cuando(L),126	K Carmouche	6-5-8	Levine	20-1
4	Siyouincanada(FR)(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	6-1-x	Sharp	7-2
5	Highlands Way(L),126	M Franco	1-1-11	Pletcher	10-1
6	Risk Tolerance(IRE)(L),126	F Prat	2-4-2	C Brown	1-1
7	Griffin's Wharf(L),126	T Gaffalione	10-2-8	Morley	15-1
8	Mega Magic(L),126	L Saez	1-5-7	Stall	30-1
9	Founders(L),126	T Gaffalione	5-2-2	Joseph	9-5
10	Fort Nelson(L),126	K Carmouche	6-5-1	Rice	5-2

8 — 1 1/8 miles(T); $125,000; alw; 3up

STARSHIP TITAN flew down the lane only to miss by 3/4. Choice, 2nd off the shelf, getting another furlong. Scored prior to the break. Castellano rides for Nevin. **TACTICALITY** MTO. Won comfortably in the slop at Monmouth. **EARLY ADOPTER** makes 4YO debut for Chad Brown. 1 for 5 last year. Wide 4th at Spa last summer. Resurfaces as a 1st time gelding. Franco rides. **RELATIVE VALUE** moves higher for Brown after winning narrowly at Monmouth. Prat up. **WALLEY WORLD** was 3rd behind top pick.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Relative Value(GB)(L),126	F Prat	1-7-3	C Brown	6-1
2	Starship Titan(L),126	J Castellano	2-1-1	Nevin	5-2
3	Early Adopter(GB)(L),126	M Franco	4-7-5	C Brown	6-1
4	Mount Rundle(L),126	K Carmouche	8-5-2	Nihei	20-1
5	Slapintheface(L),126	J Velazquez	8-1-1	A Dutrow	15-1
6	Walley World(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-2-5	Joseph	5-1
7	Daunt(L),126	R Santana, Jr	7-6-4	Ribaudo	20-1
8	Ocean Atlantique(L),126	J Ortiz	6-3-1	Noda	8-1
9	A Bourbon for Toby(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	6-2-3	Morley	7-2
10	Discreet Dancer(L),126	L Saez	6-1-6	Sano	20-1
11	Alan Turing(L),126	J Alvarado	6-1-2	Quick	5-2
12	Tacticality(L),121	F Prat	1-10-3	C Brown	2-1
13	Le Gris(L),126	Rider TBA	8-4-4	Rodriguez	9-2
14	Alternate Reality(L),126	M Franco	2-4-7	Kantarmaci	6-1

9 — 7 fur; $200,000; John Morrissey; 3up

The feature is the John Morrissey. **RADIO RED** raced wide and checked in a compromised 3rd. Won the Haynesfield in March. Gargans gelding offers fair value. **DOC SULLIVAN** won last years Morrissey by thismuch. Hasn't raced since March. Given a breather after turning in last of 7 in the Essex at Oaklawn. Won a NY-bred stallion stake at the distance last November. Irad rides for Green. **DRAKES PASSAGE** and **YO BANANA BOY** move to the 200k off of wins at Finger Lakes. Drakes Passage the better value under Gaffalione. And **SACROSANCT** is 2 for 2 racing 7 panels.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dr. Kraft,124	S Gonzalez	2-4-4	Kantarmaci	30-1
2	Light Man,124	J Rodriguez	2-4-4	Levine	30-1
3	El Grande O,124	F Prat	1-4-1	Rice	6-1
4	Hit the Post,126	C Elliott	5-1-3	Giddings	15-1
5	Buttah,124	J Castellano	1-2-6	Kantarmaci	12-1
6	Sacrosanct,124	M Franco	3-2-1	Rice	4-1
7	Acoustic Ave,124	J Lezcano	5-4-2	Rice	12-1
8	Bold Journey,126	J Alvarado	3-7-3	Mott	6-1
9	Yo Banana Boy,126	R Santana, Jr	1-4-7	Maker	12-1
10	Doc Sullivan,126	I Ortiz, Jr	7-2-1	Green	7-2
11	Donegal Surges,124	K Carmouche	8-2-7	Pletcher	10-1
12	Drake's Passage,124	T Gaffalione	1-7-3	Clement	20-1
13	Radio Red,126	D Davis	3-4-1	Gargan	10-1

10 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $56,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up(f)

NOT TAPPING. Midpack 6th in latest but figs suggest Morleys' filly competes at a price. Saez if she draws in off the AE. **SAN ANTONIO SARA** MTO. **ITALIANNE** made grass debut in November and never factored. Sprint to route and lower off the layoff for Morley. Daughter of Vino Rosso may relish the distance. 1st time lasix; 1st time Irad.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Chaumet(L),121	E Zayas	6-8-x	Terranova II	6-1
2	Amicus Curiae(M),121	R Santana, Jr	4-10-9	Levine	10-1
3	Italianne(M),121	I Ortiz, Jr	10-8-x	Morley	6-1
4	Bernina Express(L),121	F Prat	6-8-8	De Paz	9-2
5	Mia Sophia(L),121	R Gutierrez	12-7-11	DeLauro	20-1
6	Zelena(L),121	J Lezcano	7-5-x	Nevin	12-1
7	Tank Girl(L),121	F Villa Pino	11-10-5	Metivier	50-1
8	Intothewilderness(M),121	J Ortiz	3-9-4	Baker	7-2
9	Luciana's Honor(L),121	J Velazquez	2-3-5	Hennig	20-1
10	Sky Low Low(L),126	K Davis	2-5-5	DeVaux	6-1
11	Sunshine Dakotah(M),121	J Rodriguez	4-x-x	Chichakly	15-1
12	Saratoga Daisy(L),121	K Carmouche	8-4-8	Donk	8-1
13	Not Tapping(L),121	L Saez	6-7-6	Morley	8-1
14	Iwokeuplikethis(M),121	J Lezcano	11-x-x	Nevin	20-1
15	San Antonio Sara(L),121	T Gaffalione	4-5-3	Joseph	2-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Lady Firefoot (14-1) didn't fire. Loss of -$30. Four that may offer fair value. Bet $4 across the board on Kings Landyn in Race 3, Cream Of The Crop in Race 6, Radio Red in Race 9 and Not Tapping in Race 10. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Yonkers for Thursday

Post Time: 6:45 p.m.

FIRST: Mile trot; $22,000; claiming

1	P L Oscar	(ASiegelman)	6-8-6	5-1
2	B Nicking	(JBartlett)	3-1-6	1-1
3	Chef Rocco	(BHolland)	4-2-1	3-1
4	Kasha V	(JMarohn)	4-4-8	20-1
5	Hat Trick Marleau	(JStratton)	3-2-1	8-1
6	Windsong Pioneer	(CKelly)	8-8-8	20-1
7	Credit Con	(SZeron)	2-2-5	20-1
8	Ikon Vang Dk	(DDube)	2-6-3	20-1

SECOND: Mile trot; $13,100; Naada

1	Baby Tao	(SKeppler)	2-4-4	6-1
2	Pc Free Wheeling	(VStratton)	4-4-3	4-1
3	Cal Mile N Shell	(JCalabrese)	3-2-5	6-1
4	Lucky Mum N	(JFaraldo)	5-7-2	9-5
5	Bacardi	(JLee)	2-6-3	20-1
6	Barn Credit	(AAdamczyk)	7-8-2	20-1
7	Shake N Bake	(NSheridan)	1-2-5	5-1
8	Big Limo	(AVerruso)	1-5-6	8-1

THIRD: Mile trot; $22,000; claiming

1	Mon Amour	(CKelly)	4-3-3	7-2
2	Radio Lab	(AMiller)	8-5-1	10-1
3	For A Dreamer	(BHolland)	6-6-6	20-1
4	Aquarius Face S	(JStratton)	2-1-6	5-2
5	Classical Jane	(TButer)	2-1-2	7-2
6	Warrawee Whisper	(DDube)	7-7-7	20-1
7	Beacon Beach	(ASiegelman)	1-7-1	8-1
8	The Brodster	(JBartlett)	3-7-7	4-1

FOURTH: Mile trot; $33,000; cond

1	My Degenerate	(AMiller)	1-1-2	5-2
2	Wheelzablazin	(MKakaley)	4-7-1	8-1
3	Southwind Coors	(TButer)	2-1-3	7-2
4	Asteroid	(CKelly)	3-3-4	3-1
5	Dribbling Bi	(DDube)	1-4-3	8-1
6	My Man Peter	(JBartlett)	5-2-1	6-1
7	Camera Man	(ASiegelman)	4-2-4	20-1
8	Full Of Muscles	(SZeron)	2-2-4	12-1

FIFTH: Mile trot; $28,000; cond

1	Seven Layer	(ASiegelman)	7-3-1	6-1
2	Khaosan Road	(CKelly)	2-6-6	4-1
3	High Speed Swan	(JBartlett)	2-4-1	2-1
4	Te Quiero Lindy	(AMiller)	3-3-7	8-1
5	Vinny De Vie	(BHolland)	1-4-4	10-1
6	Oliver The Great	(JMarohn)	1-2-5	5-1
7	Onajetplane	(JStratton)	2-2-2	12-1
8	Blockchain	(TButer)	3-2-8	6-1

SIXTH: Mile pace; $20,000; Ny Ex

1	Taladega Express	(LBailey)	5-7-5	3-1
2	Perla	(AMiller)	8-1-2	10-1
3	BellbottomCountry	(JBrtlett)	6-2-2	4-1
4	Long Shore	(MKakaley)	1-1-5	8-5
5	She's In The Juice	(CKelly)	3-4-1	5-2

SEVENTH: Mile pace; $20,000; Ny Ex

1	American Cheese	(JStratton)	2-2-2	2-1
2	Arya Blue Chip	(BHolland)	4-3-5	12-1
3	Carry Back	(JBartlett)	3-1-6	9-5
4	Come On Barbie	(LTritton)	1-1-5	4-1
5	Onaorchardhunt	(TButer)	4-7-5	6-1
6	Lilyville	(LBailey)	2-6-3	8-1

EIGHTH: Mile pace; $20,000; Ny Ex

1	Ev Does It	(YGingras)	4-7-2	8-1
2	Bueckers	(SZeron)	1-1-3	3-2
3	Hay Beth	(BHolland)	3-4-3	6-1
4	Lenna	(JBartlett)	1-6-3	8-5
5	Lady Oakley	(CKelly)	3-7-1	6-1
6	I'msodelightful	(JStratton)	4-4-4	20-1

NINTH: Mile pace; $82,500; NYSS

1	Savage Cindy	(JStratton)	4-2-1	5-2
2	Saulsbrook Rolo	(YGingras)	6-4-3	20-1
3	Ideal Beauty Queen	(SZeron)	5-3-7	7-2
4	Existential	(JBartlett)	4-3-6	5-1
5	OddsOnMonetary	(MKakley)	1-1-1	6-5

TENTH: Mile pace; $82,500; NYSS

1	Liberty Style	(JBartlett)	2-1-1	4-5
2	Miss Genie Mae	(JStratton)	6-4-5	8-1
3	Two Twenty Swift	(YGingras)	3-5-2	7-2
4	HntngMemres	Herschberge	7-8-2	15-1
5	Surreal Spirit	(JGregory)	3-3-1	3-1

ELEVENTH: Mile trot; $43,000; Invitational

1	BayBreezeHanover	(BHollnd)	5-7-1	4-1
2	Hot Flash Kimmy	(CKelly)	4-3-1	6-1
3	MoniBuysHappynes	(Gngrs)	6-1-3	8-1
4	Ma Isabelle	(PLachance)	3-1-6	8-1
5	R Lady W	(JBartlett)	2-4-5	2-1
6	Nymeria	(MKakaley)	1-5-4	12-1
7	Stacking Green	(SZeron)	1-3-3	20-1
8	Always A Story	(JStratton)	1-6-1	5-1

Saratoga Results

FIRST-2 mile 3 fur; $150,000; Smithwick; 4up

7	Smrt Uncle (Brgry)	10.08	5.04	3.24
1	Fil Dor (FR) (Tierney)		6.42	4.74
6	Roja Redemption (Procter)			4.90

● $1 Exacta (7-1) $30.37 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-1-6-5) $135.78 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-1-6) $118.19

SECOND-7 fur; $100,000; mdn; 3up (f&m)

2	Fbn's Prncss (Prt)	6.58	2.98	2.46
1	Proms M Amldy (Rdrguz)		2.96	2.64
7	Carmen Amalia (Rivera)			2.98

Scr: Giovanna Marie, Midnight Honor

● $1 Double (7-2) $15.84 ● $1 Exacta (2-1) $7.99 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-1-7) $21.59 ● $1 Consolation Double (7-3) $4.69

THIRD-1 mile; $115,000; mdn; 3up (f&m)

3	Mr Louse (Vlzquz)	5.26	3.62	3.26
2	Noble Glow (Prat)		4.34	3.56
6	Miss Twitter (Franco)			5.56

● $1 Cons Pick 3 (7-3-3) $20.18 ● $1 Pick 3 (7-2-3) $65.33 ● $1 Double (2-3) $11.67 ● $1 Exacta (3-2) $11.73 ● $0.5 Tri (3-2-6) $39.18

FOURTH-1 mile 1 fur; $125,000; alw; 3upf

3	Ontario (Ortiz)	18.18	8.46	5.12
2	Unresonble (IRE) (Frnco)		5.42	3.46
6	Power of Destny (GB) (Vlzquz)			5.20

Scr: Purloin, Boxed Wine

● $1 Pick 3 (2-3-3) $182.93 ● $1 Double (3-3) $32.45 ● $1 Exacta (3-2) $51.21 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-2-6) $139.15

FIFTH-6 fur; $78,000; soc($75,000); 3YO

6	Shrns Bch (OrtzJr.)	6.54	3.06	2.34
4	Ramajay (Prat)		2.98	2.50
7	Imagine John (Morelos)			2.56

Scr: Mr. Hooligan

● $1 Pick 3 (3-3-6) $115.80 ● $1 Double (3-6) $25.68 ● $1 Exacta (6-4) $7.67 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-4-7) $10.01

Exacta picked by Vic C

SIXTH-5½ fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F

3	Embutllg (Vlzquz)	33.26	10.84	6.06
7	Rockabye (Franco)		3.82	2.82
6	Queenly (Ortiz,Jr.)			4.14

Scr: RKantMiss,Saytara,SeasideStrtup,Jolene

● $1 Pick 3 (3-6-3) $508.66 ● $1 Double (6-3) $57.96 ● $1 Exacta (3-7) $58.60 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-7-6) $179.05

SEVENTH-6 fur; $45,000; mdn cl($25,0); 3up

9	Abrigado (OrtizJr.)	3.72	2.64	2.34
5	Lough Currne (Rodrguz)		22.10	11.36
6	Mr R T (Gutierrez)			5.08

Scr: Holy Dancer, Unbridled Justice, Wingfoot

● $1 Pick 3 (6-3-9) $128.07 ● $1 Double (3-9) $35.40 ● $1 Exacta (9-5) $48.86 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-5-6) $79.47

Winner picked by Vic C

EIGHTH-1 mile; $125,000; alw; 3up (f&m)

1	Ashkdh (FR) (Gffln)	8.22	4.46	3.24
3	Tirupati (Saez)		5.22	3.58
7	Shore War (Ortiz,Jr.)			5.54

Scr: Sailawy,MidtwnLhts,MsEnchntd,Prnghrn, BowDraw,Concurntly

● $1 Pick 3 (3-9-1) $137.72 ● $1 Double (9-1) $8.77 ● $1 Exacta (1-3) $18.29 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-3-7) $50.05

NINTH-7 fur; $200,000; Johnstone; 3up(f&m)

3	Mnnngs Exprss (Frnc)	13.50	6.18	3.46
2	Landed (Velazquez)		7.90	4.76
6	Usha (Prat)			2.58

Scr: Sunday Girl

● $1 Pick 3 (9-1-3) $45.81 ● $1 Double (1-3) $26.87 ● $1 Exacta (3-2) $59.18 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-2-6) $66.64

TENTH-1 1/16 mile; $56,000; md cl($50,0); 3p

6	Rossbegh (Franco)	7.76	4.50	3.22
5	Bourboncentrc (SntnJr.)		6.38	6.30
3	Nonno Joe (Rodriguez)			6.84

Scr: Poppy's Ticket, Chris's Song, Mo Curls

● $1 Pick 3 (1-3-6) $113.96 ● $1 Double (3-6) $25.99 ● $1 Exacta (6-5) $29.16 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-5-3-1) $95.18 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-5-3) $143.19

Winner picked by Vic C.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	68	46	.596	—	—	7-3	W-3	41-18	27-28
Yankees	64	51	.557	4½	+7	5-5	L-1	27-25	37-26
Boston	62	51	.549	5½	+6	9-1	W-7	27-29	35-22
Baltimore	56	58	.491	12	½	6-4	W-2	32-29	24-29
Toronto	54	61	.470	14½	3	6-4	W-1	28-31	26-30

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	59	54	.522	—	—	5-5	L-2	34-21	25-33
Cleveland	57	58	.496	3	—	3-7	L-2	28-30	29-28
Minnesota	56	59	.487	4	1	5-5	L-4	30-27	26-32
Detroit	55	59	.482	4½	1½	5-5	L-1	30-27	25-32
Kansas City	48	67	.417	12	9	5-5	W-2	28-27	20-40

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	59	57	.509	—	—	7-3	L-1	30-29	29-28
Texas	57	58	.496	1½	—	4-6	W-2	30-26	27-32
Seattle	56	59	.487	2½	1	5-5	W-1	33-25	23-34
Athletics	45	69	.395	13	11½	1-9	L-7	21-36	24-33
Los Angeles	43	71	.377	15	13½	2-8	L-2	25-33	18-38

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Wednesday

Mets 6, Cleveland 5, 10 inn.
St. Louis 3, **Yankees** 1
Toronto 5, Houston 4, 10 inn.
Texas 6, San Francisco 0
Tampa Bay 4, Colorado 0
Baltimore 5, L.A. Angels 2
Cincinnati 3, Athletics 2
Boston 4, White Sox 0
Kansas City 2, Minnesota 1
Seattle 4, Detroit 2

Thursday

Mets at Cleveland, 1:10
L.A. Angels at Baltimore, 12:35
Athletics at Cincinnati, 12:40
Toronto at Cubs, 2:20
Detroit at Seattle, 4:10
White Sox at Boston, 7:10
Minnesota at Kansas City, 7:40

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	69	45	.605	—	—	8-2	W-7	38-20	31-25
Philadelphia	61	54	.530	8½	—	5-5	L-1	30-28	31-26
Miami	58	57	.504	11½	3	6-4	L-2	34-23	24-34
Washington	56	60	.483	14	5½	2-8	W-1	23-34	33-26
Mets	49	66	.426	20½	12	6-4	W-2	25-34	24-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	71	43	.623	—	—	6-4	W-2	38-21	33-22
Chicago	66	49	.574	5½	+5	7-3	W-3	34-24	32-25
St. Louis	57	58	.496	14½	4	4-6	W-1	28-32	29-26
Pittsburgh	57	59	.491	15	4½	3-7	L-2	29-28	28-31
Cincinnati	55	58	.487	15½	5	7-3	W-3	28-31	27-27

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	69	46	.600	—	—	2-8	L-6	33-23	36-23
Arizona	61	54	.530	8	—	6-4	W-1	33-23	28-31
San Diego	59	56	.513	10	2	7-3	L-1	32-25	27-31
San Francisco	48	67	.417	21	13	4-6	L-2	26-27	22-40
Colorado	45	70	.391	24	16	3-7	L-3	27-32	18-38

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Wednesday

Mets 6, Cleveland 5, 10 inn.
St. Louis 3, **Yankees** 1
Texas 6, San Francisco 0
Cubs 7, L.A. Dodgers 6
Tampa Bay 4, Colorado 0
Cincinnati 3, Athletics 2
Atlanta 4, Miami 1
Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 2
Washington 10, Philadelphia 4, 11 inn.
Arizona 10, San Diego 4

Thursday

Mets at Cleveland, 1:10
Athletics at Cincinnati, 12:40
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 2:10
Toronto at Cubs, 2:20
Washington at Philadelphia, 6:05
Miami at Atlanta, 7:15
San Diego at Arizona, 9:40

POST SU DOKU Puzzles on Page 34

3	1	6	8	9	4	7	2	5
7	9	5	3	2	6	1	4	8
8	4	2	1	7	5	3	6	9
6	8	9	5	4	3	2	7	1
1	7	3	9	6	2	5	8	4
2	5	4	7	8	1	9	3	6
5	2	8	4	3	9	6	1	7
4	6	1	2	5	7	8	9	3
9	3	7	6	1	8	4	5	2

Solution to Very Easy #7,362

9	8	7	2	4	6	3	5	1
3	5	4	8	9	1	6	7	2
1	6	2	7	3	5	8	9	4
7	1	3	5	8	9	2	4	6
6	2	8	3	7	4	9	1	5
5	4	9	1	6	2	7	8	3
4	3	5	9	2	8	1	6	7
2	9	1	6	5	7	4	3	8
8	7	6	4	1	3	5	2	9

Solution to Difficult #7,152

Cardinals 3, Yankees 1

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt ss-2b	3	1	1	2	2	0	.248
Herrera c	5	0	1	1	0	2	.239
Burleson 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.287
Fermín rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Church cf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.236
Jordan 3b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.252
Torres lf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.232
Crooks dh	4	1	2	0	0	1	.188
Prieto 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Winn ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**3**	**8**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Rice dh	2	1	0	0	3	1	.260
García 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.283
Sánchez c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Ramos lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.261
Jones rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.213
Chisholm 2b	2	0	0	1	2	1	.217
McMahon 3b	2	0	0	0	2	1	.212
Caballero pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.245
Lombard ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.333
Wells c	2	0	1	0	0	0	.169
Goldschmidt ph-1b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.247
Totals	**30**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**8**	**10**	

St. Louis	**000 030 000 —**	**3**	**9**	**2**
Yankees	**000 001 000 —**	**1**	**4**	**0**

E: Burleson (8), Herrera (1). **LOB:** St. Louis 8, New York 11. **2B:** Burleson (28), Wetherholt (11), Herrera (19), Crooks (4), Ramos (14), Goldschmidt (11). **RBIs:** Wetherholt 2 (43), Herrera (47), Chisholm (47). **SB:** Rice (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 5 (Crooks, Herrera 2, Burleson, Church); New York 6 (McMahon 3, Sánchez, Lombard, García). **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 9; New York 0 for 10. **DP:** St. Louis 1 (Wetherholt, Burleson); New York 1 (Lombard, Chisholm, García).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallnte, W, 12-6	5.1	3	1	1	3	4	103	3.63
Soriano, H, 17	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	24	3.55
Bruihl, H, 7	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	15	3.60
Stanek, H, 20	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	24	4.63
O'Brien, S, 27-32	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	22	3.35

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Warren, L, 8-6	5.1	7	3	3	1	5	91	4.18
Castro	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	22	1.69
Hill	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	14	4.40
Blackburn	1.2	2	0	0	1	2	30	2.02

T: 3:21. **A:** 37,425 (47,309).

Rays 4, Rockies 0

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mesa rf	3	1	2	1	0	0	.211
Aranda dh	4	1	1	1	0	1	.285
Caminero 3b	3	1	1	1	1	0	.284
Hicks 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.282
Simpson lf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.299
Mullins cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Palacios 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Williamson ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Vilade 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Walls ss	3	1	0	0	1	1	.214
Fortes c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Totals	**29**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**5**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.293
Carrigg cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.301
Moniak dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.278
Goodman ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Karros 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.271
Rumfield 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.291
Beck rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.191
Julien 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.209
Tovar ss	3	0	1	0	0	2	.207
Sullivan c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.231
Totals	**32**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**2**	**10**	

Tampa Bay	**201 000 100 —**	**4**	**5**	**0**
Colorado	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Tampa Bay 4, Colorado 7. **2B:** Beck (6). **3B:** Mesa 2 (2). **HR:** Caminero (33), off Sugano. **RBIs:** Aranda (71), Simpson (23), Caminero (71), Mesa (18). **SB:** McCarthy (18), Simpson (30), Walls (18). **S:** Mullins, Fortes, Mesa. **Runners left in scoring position:** Tampa Bay 4 (Palacios 2, Aranda, Williamson); Colorado 3 (Carrigg, Rumfield, Julien). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 2 for 7; Colorado 0 for 5. **DP:** Tampa Bay 1 (Walls, Palacios, Hicks).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martinz, W, 11-3	5.2	6	0	0	0	4	75	2.65
Wells, H, 12	1.1	0	0	0	1	4	19	2.60
Cleavinger	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	3.12
Booser	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	6	1.85

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sugano, L, 11-5	5.0	5	3	3	2	3	85	4.51
Mushinski	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.00
Mejia	1.0	0	1	1	1	0	14	5.36
Agnos	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	28	6.03

T: 2:37. **A:** 21,100 (50,144).

Mets 6, Guardians 5, 10 inn.

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing cf-lf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.264
Lindor ss	5	1	0	0	0	4	.228
Bichette 3b	5	0	1	1	0	2	.256
Benge rf	5	2	1	1	0	2	.263
Young 1b	4	1	2	1	1	1	.250
Alvarez c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.251
Baty lf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.219
Pache lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Robert ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.189
Polanco dh	4	1	2	1	0	1	.144
Semien 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.208
Totals	**39**	**6**	**8**	**5**	**2**	**16**	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan lf-cf	5	1	1	0	1	2	.260
DeLauter dh	4	0	0	0	2	1	.276
Ramírez pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.233
Adell rf	5	1	0	0	1	2	.238
Lowe 1b	6	0	2	2	0	1	.266
Bazzana 2b	5	0	1	1	0	3	.244
Rocchio ss	3	1	0	0	1	0	.257
Halpin cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Martínez ph-lf	2	1	1	0	0	1	.228
Bailey c	5	0	2	1	0	2	.198
Genao 3b	5	1	4	1	0	0	.800
Totals	**42**	**5**	**11**	**5**	**5**	**13**	

Mets	**002 101 001**	**1 —**	**6**	**8**	**2**
Cleveland	**000 120 200**	**0 —**	**5**	**11**	**3**

E: Young (4), Pache (1), Genao 2 (2), Rocchio (12). **LOB:** New York 6, Cleveland 15. **2B:** Young (10), Ewing (14), Polanco (5), Lowe (18). **3B:** Young (1). **HR:** Baty (7), off Bibee; Polanco (2), off Bibee; Benge (13), off Bibee. **RBIs:** Baty (34), Polanco (5), Young (20), Benge (43), Bichette (55), Bazzana (36), Lowe 2 (39), Bailey (23), Genao (1). **S:** Martínez. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 6 (Ewing, Baty, Alvarez, Lindor 2, Benge); Cleveland 9 (Bazzana, Lowe, Bailey 2, Adell 2, Kwan, Genao, Rocchio). **RISP:** New York 2 for 10; Cleveland 4 for 19. **Runners moved up:** Rocchio.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scott	5.0	6	3	3	2	7	96	3.15
Yan, H, 1	1.0	2	0	0	1	2	22	0.00
Núñez, BS, 0-1	1.0	3	2	0	0	2	20	0.00
McDermott, W, 1-0	2.0	0	0	0	1	2	39	4.15
Duarte, S, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	14	1.26

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bibee	5.2	4	4	3	0	10	98	3.85
Sabrowski	0.1	1	0	0	0	1	5	3.73
Yoho	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.86
Gaddis, H, 22	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	3.58
Smith, BS, 30-35	1.0	1	1	0	2	2	29	2.41
Festa, L, 2-3	1.0	1	1	0	0	2	14	4.27

T: 3:15. **A:** 29,033 (34,788).

Blue Jays 5, Astros 4, 10 inn.

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lukes rf	5	0	1	0	0	3	.266
Okamoto 1b	5	1	1	1	0	2	.229
Sánchez lf	3	1	1	2	1	2	.270
Springer dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.238
Valenzuela c	3	0	0	0	0	3	.235
Kirk ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.235
J.Smith 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.209
Urías ph-2b	2	1	0	0	0	1	.240
Clement 2b-3b	4	1	1	2	0	1	.285
Giménez ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Straw cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.231
Totals	**35**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**2**	**13**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	5	1	0	0	0	2	.311
Alvarez dh	4	0	1	1	1	2	.329
Altuve 2b	5	1	2	1	0	0	.244
Varsho cf	4	1	1	0	1	2	.242
Trammell rf-lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Walker 1b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.240
Wade lf	4	0	3	1	0	0	.229
C.Smith pr-rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Diaz c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Allen 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.260
Paredes ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.249
Totals	**38**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**2**	**9**	

Toronto	**000 003 000**	**2 —**	**5**	**5**	**0**
Houston	**003 000 000**	**1 —**	**4**	**10**	**1**

E: Allen (5). **LOB:** Toronto 4, Houston 7. **2B:** Straw (11), Walker (24), Wade (4). **HR:** Sánchez (8), off Brown; Clement (9), off Sousa; Altuve (13), off Taillon. **RBIs:** Okamoto (70), Sánchez 2 (32), Clement 2 (38), Altuve (34), Walker (65), Wade (15), Alvarez (85). **SB:** Varsho (10), C.Smith (10). **CS:** C.Smith (2). Toronto 2 for 3; Houston 3 for 9. **DP:** Houston 1 (Altuve, Walker).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Taillon	4.0	6	3	3	2	4	80	5.96
Miles	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	40	3.04
Fluharty	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	4.14
Rogers	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	1.59
Varland, W, 4-4	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	17	1.09
Lee, S, 1-1	1.0	1	1	0	0	0	5	6.23

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Brown	6.0	3	3	3	2	8	93	3.53
Okert	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	22	2.24
Abreu	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	4.43
Hader	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1.12
Sousa, L, 0-1	1.0	2	2	1	0	1	12	3.48

T: 2:55. **A:** 27,751 (41,000).

Cubs 7, Dodgers 6

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	5	2	3	3	0	2	.297
Pages cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.268
Call cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Rortvedt c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Freeman 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.310
E.Hernández 1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Edman lf-cf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.289
Tucker rf	5	1	1	0	0	0	.243
Betts ss	5	1	4	0	0	0	.233
Muncy 3b	4	1	1	3	0	2	.253
Rojas 2b	4	1	2	0	0	2	.283
Feduccia c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.229
T.Hernández ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.255
Totals	**41**	**6**	**14**	**6**	**0**	**11**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong dh	5	2	3	4	0	1	.288
Suzuki rf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.273
Bregman 3b	5	0	1	1	0	0	.245
Kelly c	5	0	3	0	0	0	.266
Triantos pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Amaya c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.233
Busch 1b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.243
Hoerner 2b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.262
Happ lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.213
Swanson ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.220
Taylor cf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.238
Totals	**40**	**7**	**15**	**7**	**0**	**6**	

Los Angeles	**100 000 050 —**	**6**	**14**	**1**
Chicago	**120 300 10x —**	**7**	**15**	**0**

E: Muncy (10). **LOB:** Los Angeles 9, Chicago 10. **2B:** Swanson (15), Crow-Armstrong (22), Busch (19), Suzuki (20), Hoerner (24). **HR:** Ohtani (25), off Imanaga; Muncy (22), off Thielbar; Ohtani (26), off Zeferjahn; Crow-Armstrong 2 (26), off Lauer. **RBIs:** Ohtani 3 (70), Muncy 3 (52), Crow-Armstrong 4 (69), Swanson (63), Bregman (48), Hoerner (54). **RISP:** Los Angeles 1 for 6; Chicago 2 for 12.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lauer, L, 6-6	4.0	11	6	6	0	1	95	4.89
Henriquez	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	19	3.20
Hurt	1.1	2	1	1	0	2	23	4.66
J.Hernández	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	4	7.08
Phillips	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	9	4.82
Dreyer	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.93

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imanaga, W, 8-9	5.0	8	1	1	0	6	89	3.60
Ferguson	2.0	1	0	0	0	3	29	5.29
Thielbar	0.1	4	4	4	0	0	19	4.98
Zeferjahn, H, 11	0.2	1	1	1	0	2	14	3.71
Webb, S, 6-10	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.49

T: 3:04. **A:** 38,691 (41,363).

Orioles 5, Angels 2

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.228
Trout cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.242
Schanuel 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.275
Grissom 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.257
Ballesteros dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.227
d'Arnaud c	2	0	1	0	0	1	.205
Meckler ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.307
Heineman c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.172
Lowe rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.203
Siri lf	3	1	1	1	0	2	.257
Frazier 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Totals	**31**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**11**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Franklin cf-lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Beavers ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.248
Henderson ss	2	2	1	0	1	0	.219
O'Neill rf	3	1	1	2	0	1	.215
Taveras ph-rf	1	1	1	2	0	0	.221
Mayo dh	4	1	2	1	0	1	.205
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.267
Holliday 2b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.244
Jackson lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Cowser ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.205
Narváez c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.182
Totals	**29**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**2**	**12**	

Los Angeles	**000 001 100 —**	**2**	**4**	**1**
Baltimore	**000 300 02x —**	**5**	**6**	**0**

E: Fermin (1). **LOB:** Los Angeles 2, Baltimore 3. **2B:** Encarnacion-Strand (3). **HR:** Siri (6), off Rogers; O'Neill (9), off Detmers; Mayo (15), off Detmers; Taveras (6), off Fermin. **RBIs:** Siri (19), Meckler (20), O'Neill 2 (20), Mayo (41), Taveras 2 (41). **SB:** Meckler (4). **CS:** Holliday (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 1 (Lowe); Baltimore 1 (Jackson). **RISP:** Los Angeles 1 for 4; Baltimore 1 for 3.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Detmers, L, 3-8	4.0	4	3	3	1	5	81	4.12
Anderson	2.0	1	0	0	0	3	27	5.30
Joyce	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	16	0.00
Fermin	1.0	1	2	2	0	3	26	3.13

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rogers, W, 7-7	6.0	3	2	2	0	9	93	4.20
Hoppe, H, 2	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	13	5.65
Garcia, H, 14	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.96
Cano, H, 10	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	2.04
Kittredge, S, 5-8	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4.05

T: 2:27. **A:** 16,977 (45,971).

Rangers 6, Giants 0

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Eldridge 1b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.255
Lee rf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.303
Adames ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.221
Devers dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.248
Basabe 2b-3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.286
Kennedy 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.043
Furman ph-2b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000
McCray cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.107
Leonard lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Gilbert ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Cavanaugh c	4	0	2	0	0	2	.250
Totals	**35**	**0**	**8**	**0**	**3**	**10**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Langford lf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.265
Duran 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.276
Nimmo rf	3	2	2	2	1	0	.274
Burger 1b	3	2	1	0	1	1	.238
Foscue dh	2	1	1	2	0	0	.256
Pederson ph-dh	2	0	1	0	0	1	.252
Díaz c	4	0	1	1	0	0	.240
Lopez ss	4	0	2	1	0	0	.282
Cauley 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.192
Carter cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.199
Totals	**31**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**5**	**8**	

San Francisco	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**8**	**0**
Texas	**004 010 01x —**	**6**	**9**	**0**

LOB: San Francisco 11, Texas 6. **2B:** Leonard (1), Cavanaugh (1), Langford (14), Díaz (9). **3B:** Foscue (1). **HR:** Nimmo (12), off Seymour. **RBIs:** Nimmo 2 (43), Foscue 2 (21), Díaz (19), Lopez (19). **CS:** Lopez (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 6 (Basabe, McCray, Cavanaugh, Lee, Leonard, Devers); Texas 3 (Lopez, Carter, Foscue). **RISP:** San Francisco 0 for 8; Texas 4 for 12. **Runners moved up:** Eldridge, Díaz. **GIDP:** Duran. **DP:** San Francisco 1 (Adames, Basabe, Eldridge).

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Whisenhunt, L, 2-3	3.1	5	4	4	3	4	70	7.25
Seymour	2.2	2	1	1	1	2	37	10.29
Foley	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	14	4.26
Beck	1.0	2	1	1	1	1	23	7.07

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradford	4.1	5	0	0	2	5	70	0.00
Alexander, W, 2-2	1.2	0	0	0	0	3	26	3.24
Ahlstrom	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	4.18
Silseth	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	16	2.98
C.Winn	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	11	6.10

T: 2:34. **A:** 26,098 (40,000).

Reds 3, Athletics 2

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Butler rf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.208
Wilson dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Soderstrom lf	2	1	1	0	2	0	.245
Heim c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.228
McNeil 1b-2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.251
White 3b-1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Walton 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.281
Muncy ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.219
Bolte cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.259
Williams ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Totals	**31**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**7**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.277
Stewart 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.255
Myers cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.268
Suárez dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.200
Marte rf	2	1	1	1	0	0	.195
Bleday lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Trevino c	3	0	1	1	0	1	.253
Hayes 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.139
McLain 2b	3	1	1	1	0	1	.192
Totals	**28**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**1**	**11**	

Athletics	**100 001 000 —**	**2**	**4**	**0**
Cincinnati	**010 011 00x —**	**3**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Athletics 4, Cincinnati 3. **2B:** Heim (13). **HR:** Butler (7), off Lowder; McLain (9), off Lopez. **RBIs:** Butler (30), Heim (36), Trevino (12), McLain (27), Marte (15). **SB:** Marte (6), De La Cruz (21). **SF:** Marte. **RISP:** Athletics 0 for 3; Cincinnati 1 for 5.

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lopez	5.0	4	2	2	1	9	87	5.64
Juenger, L, 0-1	0.2	2	1	1	0	1	15	4.35
Suarez	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	3	4.66
Blewett	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	24	1.23

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lowder, W, 4-7	6.0	4	2	2	2	3	95	5.26
Burke, H, 13	1.1	0	0	0	0	3	18	2.45
Antone, H, 7	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	6	2.25
Pagán, S, 13-16	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	4.26

T: 2:22. **A:** 16,544 (43,891).

Braves 4, Marlins 1

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Edwards 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.287
Stowers 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.232
Lopez ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.320
Conine rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.256
Hernández lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.233
Caissie dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.228
Marsee cf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.199
Mack c	2	0	0	1	0	0	.240
Ramírez ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.224
Sanoja 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.266
Totals	**31**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**6**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin dh	4	0	2	2	0	2	.272
Acuña rf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.240
Olson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Harris cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.290
Albies 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.261
Dubón ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.262
Thomas lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.228
Yastrzemski ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Riley 3b	4	1	2	1	0	2	.222
Murphy c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.111
Totals	**34**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**2**	**12**	

Miami	**000 010 000 —**	**1**	**3**	**0**
Atlanta	**031 000 00x —**	**4**	**10**	**1**

a-struck out for Mack in the 8th. b-flied out for Thomas in the 8th. **E:** Riley (10). **LOB:** Miami 5, Atlanta 8. **2B:** Marsee (14), Riley (17), Harris (23). **RBIs:** Mack (34), Riley (55), Baldwin 2 (59), Dubón (56). **SB:** Dubón (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 3 (Lopez, Sanoja, Marsee); Atlanta 2 (Riley, Acuña). **RISP:** Miami 0 for 6; Atlanta 3 for 8. **Runners moved up:** Mack.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
E.Pérez, L, 5-9	5.0	7	4	4	2	9	91	3.61
Faucher	1.0	2	0	0	0	3	20	4.53
Gibson	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5.52
Ekness	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	18	1.42

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Elder, W, 8-6	7.0	1	1	1	2	3	84	3.69
Dodd, H, 9	0.2	2	0	0	0	1	13	2.04
Fuentes, S, 2-5	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	19	2.42

T: 2:22. **A:** 25,136 (41,149).

Red Sox 4, White Sox 0

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Murakami 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.241
Vargas 3b	3	0	2	0	1	1	.239
C.Montgomery ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.214
Benintendi dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.247
Grichuk ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.258
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.229
Peters cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.262
Doyle ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Meidroth 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.271
Romo c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.132
Bart ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Totals	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**3**	**14**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Sogard 2b-1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.246
Rafaela cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.287
Abreu rf	3	3	2	1	1	0	.254
Contreras 1b	1	0	1	1	1	0	.288
Seigler 2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.231
Yoshida dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Jones ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.165
Durbin 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.247
Duran lf	3	1	2	0	0	0	.206
Monasterio ss	2	0	1	1	0	0	.266
Wong c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.243
Totals	**28**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**4**	**8**	

Chicago	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**4**	**1**
Boston	**101 000 11x —**	**4**	**7**	**1**

E: Romo (7), Seigler (5). **LOB:** Chicago 7, Boston 5. **2B:** Benintendi (18), Duran (11). **HR:** Abreu (20), off Burke. **RBIs:** Contreras (70), Abreu (57), Monasterio (26), Durbin (50). **SB:** Monasterio (3), Abreu (7). **CS:** Durbin (5). **SF:** Monasterio. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 3 (Peters, Doyle, Murakami); Boston 2 (Wong 2). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 5; Boston 2 for 7. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Murakami); Boston 1 (Durbin, Monasterio, Sogard).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burke, L, 7-6	4.1	5	2	2	2	4	91	3.08
Newcomb	1.2	1	1	0	0	1	18	2.79
Brazobán	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	19	2.52
Murphy	1.0	1	1	1	1	2	27	4.40

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray, W, 14-2	6.0	3	0	0	2	8	83	2.78
Guerrero, H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	7	2.25
Whitlock, H, 21	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	11	1.93
Morán	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	15	2.74

T: 2:37. **A:** 37,517 (37,755).

Royals 2, Twins 1

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Martin rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Jeffers c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.283
Bell dh	3	1	0	0	1	0	.245
Clemens cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.233
Lewis 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Caratini 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.227
Lee 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.240
Larnach lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.280
Kreidler ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Totals	**29**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**10**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.228
Witt ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.281
Caglianone 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.254
Perez c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Massey 2b	3	2	2	1	0	1	.267
Collins lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.241
Loftin 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Rave rf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.278
Isbel cf	2	0	0	1	0	1	.247
Totals	**26**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**4**	

Minnesota	**000 100 000 —**	**1**	**2**	**0**
Kansas City	**000 010 10x —**	**2**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Minnesota 3, Kansas City 3. **HR:** Massey (9), off Minter. **RBIs:** Isbel (13), Massey (39). **CS:** Caglianone (2). **SF:** Isbel. **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 1 (Lee); Kansas City 1 (Jensen). **RISP:** Minnesota 1 for 3; Kansas City 0 for 2. **DP:** Minnesota 1 (Lewis, Kreidler, Caratini); Kansas City 1 (Witt, Massey, Caglianone).

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kremer	5.0	3	1	1	2	2	88	5.93
Nance	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	7	3.46
Minter, L, 1-2	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	12	2.49
Hoffman	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.86

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cameron, W, 6-8	8.0	2	1	1	1	9	106	4.37
Cruz, S, 3-4	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	4.29

T: 2:13. **A:** 13,439 (38,427).

Brewers 4, Pirates 2

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum lf-cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.298
Lowe 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Reynolds dh	4	1	1	0	0	2	.268
Valdez rf	3	0	0	0	1	3	.248
Gonzales 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.306
Rodríguez c	3	1	1	2	0	1	.269
Triolo ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Gonzalez ph-ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Flores 1b	1	0	0	0	1	1	.200
Horwitz ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Garcia cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.174
Simon ph-lf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.000
Totals	**28**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**3**	**14**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.266
Chourio lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Mitchell cf	2	1	0	0	2	1	.257
Contreras c	3	2	1	1	1	1	.270
Yelich dh	4	1	2	1	0	2	.234
Vaughn 1b	3	0	1	2	1	0	.300
Lara rf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.236
Pratt ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Hamilton 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Ortiz 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Totals	**27**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**10**	

Pittsburgh	**000 000 200 —**	**2**	**3**	**1**
Milwaukee	**000 301 00x —**	**4**	**4**	**0**

E: Rodríguez (4). **LOB:** Pittsburgh 2, Milwaukee 5. **2B:** Yelich (18). **HR:** Rodríguez (7), off Hall; Contreras (11), off Bachar. **RBIs:** Rodríguez 2 (20), Yelich (38), Vaughn 2 (32), Contreras (58). **SB:** Yelich (10), Mitchell (11). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 1 for 2; Milwaukee 2 for 9.

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Skenes, L, 9-10	5.0	2	3	3	4	6	93	3.96
Bachar	2.0	2	1	1	1	2	37	3.86
Sisk	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	20	2.17

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Harrison, W, 9-2	5.0	1	0	0	1	10	69	2.84
Patrick, H, 6	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	19	3.42
Hall	0.2	2	2	2	1	0	20	2.76
Senzatela, H, 6	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	3.52
Uribe, H, 18	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.14
Megill, S, 20-22	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.70

T: 2:37. **A:** 33,528 (41,700).

Mariners 4, Tigers 2

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Torres 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.268
Dingler dh	3	1	2	2	1	1	.275
Greene lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Keith 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Torkelson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.218
Clark cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.368
Valencia c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.412
McKinstry rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Lee ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.266
Outman rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.168
Totals	**29**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**1**	**9**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Young 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Arozarena lf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.284
Canzone rf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.254
Robles rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Rodríguez cf	3	1	2	3	1	0	.258
Naylor 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Raleigh c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.162
Donovan 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Ward dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.245
Emerson ss	3	1	1	1	0	0	.199
Totals	**28**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**3**	

Detroit	**000 000 020 —**	**2**	**4**	**0**
Seattle	**000 003 01x —**	**4**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Detroit 5, Seattle 3. **2B:** Arozarena (24). **HR:** Dingler (25), off Bazardo; Rodríguez (17), off Hanifee; Emerson (8), off De Jesús. **RBIs:** Dingler 2 (75), Rodríguez 3 (50), Emerson (23). **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 2 (Torkelson, McGonigle); Seattle 0. **RISP:** Detroit 0 for 3; Seattle 1 for 3. **DP:** Detroit 3 (Torres, McGonigle, Torkelson; Torres, McGonigle, Torkelson; Torres, McGonigle, Torkelson); Seattle 1 (Young, Emerson, Naylor).

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Anderson	3.2	3	0	0	1	0	42	4.01
Holton	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	23	2.94
Hanifee, L, 0-1	0.0	2	3	3	1	0	6	5.31
Sommers	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	4.24
De Jesús	2.0	2	1	1	0	1	29	3.68

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woo, W, 8-8	7.0	3	0	0	1	5	91	4.31
Speier, H, 14	0.2	0	1	1	0	1	9	2.10
Bazardo, H, 22	0.1	1	1	1	0	1	9	3.47
Muñoz, S, 20-26	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.89

T: 2:21. **A:** 40,743 (47,929).

Nationals 10, Phillies 4, 11 inn.

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Abrams ss	5	2	3	3	0	1	.290
Ortiz 1b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.273
Pinckney pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	---
Beeter p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Mikolas ph	0	1	0	1	0	0	---
Lord p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Crews rf	5	1	1	0	1	1	.221
Lile lf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.243
Ruiz c	3	0	1	1	1	1	.266
Ford pr-c	1	1	0	0	1	0	.179
Tena dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Chaparro ph-dh-1b	3	0	1	2	1	1	.211
Nuñez 2b	5	0	0	2	1	1	.235
Vivas 3b	1	0	0	0	1	0	.236
House ph-3b	4	2	1	1	0	2	.232
Young cf	3	2	2	0	2	0	.237
Totals	**42**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**8**	**11**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	3	0	0	0	1	3	.241
Turner ss	4	0	0	1	0	1	.250
Harper rf	3	0	0	0	2	0	.252
Arraez 2b	5	1	1	1	0	0	.324
Bohm 1b	4	1	1	0	1	0	.227
Marsh lf-cf	5	1	1	0	0	0	.278
Realmuto c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Stott 3b	2	0	1	1	2	0	.257
Crawford cf	1	0	0	1	0	0	.263
Hill ph-cf	2	1	0	0	0	0	.238
De La Cruz lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.429
Totals	**33**	**4**	**5**	**4**	**6**	**5**	

Washington	**100 000 200 16 —**	**10**	**10**	**0**
Philadelphia	**020 000 100 10 —**	**4**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Washington 12, Philadelphia 7. **2B:** Young (15), Chaparro (6). **3B:** Abrams (3). **HR:** House (8), off Raley; Arraez (5), off Irvin. **RBIs:** Ruiz (37), House (27), Abrams 3 (88), Nuñez 2 (33), Mikolas (1), Chaparro 2 (23), Arraez (46), Crawford (28), Stott (51), Turner (45). **SB:** Abrams (21), Stott (20), Hill (12). **CS:** Harper (5). **SF:** Crawford, Turner. **S:** Mikolas. **RISP:** Washington 5 for 17; Philadelphia 1 for 9. **D**

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Irvin	5.1	3	2	2	2	3	83	5.37
Dion	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	6	4.43
Cruz, BS, 0-1	0.1	2	1	1	1	1	23	3.18
Cosgrove	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	18	3.00
Ribalta	1.1	0	0	0	1	0	17	3.44
Beeter, W, 4-3	1.0	0	1	0	1	1	18	3.97
Lord	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.81

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Painter	4.0	3	1	1	1	4	63	6.48
Mayza	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	3.66
Kerkering, H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.27
Raley, BS, 0-2	1.0	3	2	2	0	2	23	2.34
Bowlan	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	15	2.95
Duran	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	16	1.88
Alvarado	1.0	0	1	0	2	1	19	5.57
Kilian, L, 3-7	0.1	1	5	4	2	1	19	4.93
Shugart	0.2	1	1	1	1	0	18	5.09

T: 3:40. **A:** 37,025 (42,901).

Diamondbacks 10, Padres 4

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis 2b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.280
Rengifo lf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.234
Sheets ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.215
Machado 3b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.212
Song ss	0	1	0	0	1	0	.208
France 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.288
Merrill cf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.240
Bogaerts ss	2	0	0	0	1	1	.223
Workman 3b	1	0	1	3	0	0	.171
Campusano c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.303
Cronenworth dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.216
Bowen rf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.155
Totals	**30**	**4**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**10**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Nootbaar lf	4	1	1	1	1	0	.232
Carroll rf	3	2	2	1	1	0	.245
Barrosa rf	1	1	1	0	0	0	.198
Perdomo ss	5	1	1	0	0	1	.244
Moreno dh	2	1	0	2	2	2	.296
Tawa 3b	4	2	3	2	0	0	.232
Vargas 2b	5	0	2	4	0	0	.274
McCann c	5	0	0	0	0	2	.303
Locklear 1b	4	1	2	0	0	1	.276
Waldschmidt cf	4	1	3	0	0	1	.298
Totals	**37**	**10**	**15**	**10**	**4**	**7**	

San Diego	**000 000 004 —**	**4**	**3**	**0**
Arizona	**002 600 02x —**	**10**	**15**	**0**

LOB: San Diego 4, Arizona 9. **2B:** Workman (4), Locklear (2), Vargas (17). **3B:** Vargas (4). **HR:** Tatis (9), off Ginkel; Tawa (6), off Mize. **RBIs:** Tatis (50), Workman 3 (8), Moreno 2 (49), Tawa 2 (26), Nootbaar (17), Carroll (53), Vargas 4 (55). **SB:** Cronenworth (6), Carroll (16). **SF:** Moreno, Tawa. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 2 (Rengifo, Cronenworth); Arizona 6 (Vargas, McCann 2, Nootbaar, Tawa 2). **RISP:** San Diego 1 for 5; Arizona 6 for 14.

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mize, L, 4-7	3.1	9	8	8	3	1	77	3.40
Hart	2.2	2	0	0	1	3	49	4.27
Peralta	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	17	3.41
Canning	1.0	3	2	2	0	2	27	6.65

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bratt, W, 1-1	7.0	1	0	0	3	9	92	3.90
Clarke	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	18	2.08
Ginkel	0.2	2	4	4	2	0	25	3.75
Sewald	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	5	6.23

T: 2:54. **A:** 17,559 (48,359).

This Date In Sports

1992 — Carl Lewis leads a U.S. sweep in the long jump in the Olympics with a mark of 28 feet, 5 1-2 inches on his first attempt. Mike Powell takes the silver and Joe Greene the bronze. Kevin Young demolishes one of track's oldest records with a time of 46.78 seconds in the 400 hurdles. Bruce Baumgartner becomes the first American wrestler to win medals in three straight Olympics, taking the gold in the 286-pound freestyle division.

1994 — Jeff Gordon wins the Brickyard 400, the first stock car race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

1995 — Canada's Donovan Bailey wins the 100 meters at World Track and Field Championships in Goteborg, Sweden, marking the first time since 1976 an American fails to win a medal in the event at a major meet.

1999 — Tony Gwynn goes 4-for-5, singling in his first at-bat to become the 22nd major leaguer to reach 3,000 hits, as the San Diego Padres beat the Montreal Expos 12-10.

2001 — Two-time champion Marion Jones is disqualified and has her string of 42 consecutive 100m final victories snapped by Zhanna Pintusevich-Block of Ukraine at the World Athletics Championships in Edmonton, Canada.

2006 — Tiger Woods (30) becomes the youngest player to compile 50 PGA Tour wins with a 3 stroke victory over Jim Furyk in the Buick Open.

2006 — Floyd Landis is fired by his team and the Tour de France no longer considers him its champion after his second doping sample tested positive for higher-than-allowable levels of testosterone.

2006 — Sherri Steinhauer wins the Women's British Open for the third time, and the first since it became a major.

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	19	11	.633	—
Atlanta	19	11	.633	—
Liberty	19	13	.594	1
Washington	17	12	.586	1½
Chicago	12	19	.387	7½
Toronto	10	20	.333	9
Connecticut	7	23	.233	12

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	25	6	.806	—
Las Vegas	21	9	.700	3½
Golden State	21	9	.700	3½
Dallas	19	12	.613	6
Los Angeles	11	18	.379	13
Phoenix	12	20	.375	13½
Portland	11	19	.367	13½
Seattle	6	27	.182	20

Wednesday

Liberty 92, Seattle 86
Atlanta 96, Phoenix 82
Washington 96, Dallas 92
Chicago 95, Los Angeles 88

Thursday

Las Vegas at Indiana, 7pm
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 9pm
Toronto at Portland, 10pm

Friday

Atlanta at Washington, 7:30pm
Phoenix at Connecticut, 7:30pm
Golden State at Dallas, 9:30pm

Liberty 92, Storm 86

Seattle

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Johnson	27:09	5-12	0-0	2-4	3	3	11
Malonga	30:01	14-20	1-2	3-10	3	2	31
Magbegor	17:20	3-7	0-2	1-5	0	3	7
Hiedeman	29:01	1-7	0-0	1-2	6	2	2
Melbourne	30:18	5-11	3-3	0-1	7	3	13
Fam	22:40	5-11	0-0	2-5	3	2	13
Cooke	12:51	1-6	2-2	1-2	1	0	4
Horston	11:24	0-0	1-2	1-1	0	2	1
Dolson	9:59	0-1	0-0	1-3	0	2	0
Samuelson	9:18	2-4	0-0	1-2	0	0	4
Totals	200:00	36-79	7-11	13-35	23	19	86

Percentages: FG .456, FT .636. **3-point goals:** 7-22, .318 (Fam 3-6, Malonga 2-4, Magbegor 1-2, Johnson 1-3, Dolson 0-1, Hiedeman 0-2, Melbourne 0-2, Samuelson 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 5. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Magbegor, Malonga, Melbourne). **Turnovers:** 10 (Hiedeman 4, Melbourne 2, Fam, Johnson, Malonga, Samuelson). **Steals:** 7 (Johnson 2, Malonga 2, Cooke, Dolson, Melbourne). **Technicals:** None.

Liberty

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Allen	19:22	4-6	2-2	0-1	0	1	12
Stewart	33:02	12-22	3-4	0-8	2	2	28
Jones	29:54	5-12	3-3	4-15	7	1	14
Astier	28:13	4-4	3-3	1-3	5	2	11
Ionescu	31:12	4-14	6-6	2-5	6	2	15
Xu	17:04	2-6	1-2	0-1	2	2	6
Fauthoux	15:33	2-6	1-1	1-3	1	0	6
Johannes	13:45	0-2	0-0	0-2	1	0	0
Gardner	11:54	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	3	0
Totals	200:00	33-75	19-21	8-38	25	13	92

Percentages: FG .440, FT .905. **3-point goals:** 7-29, .241 (Allen 2-2, Xu 1-3, Fauthoux 1-4, Stewart 1-4, Ionescu 1-6, Jones 1-6, Gardner 0-2, Johannes 0-2). **Team rebounds:** 13. **Team turnovers:** 2. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Jones 2, Stewart). **Turnovers:** 10 (Astier 2, Fauthoux 2, Jones 2, Allen, Johannes, Stewart, Xu). **Steals:** 7 (Allen 2, Ionescu 2, Astier, Gardner, Johannes). **Technicals:** None.

Seattle	16	27	22	21 —	86
Liberty	27	20	22	23 —	92

A: 16,971 (17,732). **T:** 1:57.

Soccer

Leagues Cup

Inter Miami 4, Atletico de San Luis 2
FC Dallas 2, Queretaro 0
Leon 1, Nashvile SC 0
Orlando City SC 2, Monterrey 1
Toluca 3, Seattle Sounders FC 0
LAFC 1, Guadalajara 1 FT (LAFC win 5-4 on penalty kicks)

Club Friendly

AC Milan 1, Internazionale 1
Juventus 1, Chelsea 0
Real Betis 3, Arsenal 1
Mallorca 3, Paris Saint-Germain 0

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	4	40	35	14
Inter Miami CF	11	2	5	38	45	32
New England	9	5	3	30	28	21
Chicago	9	6	2	29	32	23
NYCFC	7	6	5	26	31	24
Cincinnati	7	6	5	26	45	44
Charlotte FC	7	7	4	25	29	27
Red Bulls	7	7	4	25	29	39
D.C. United	5	5	8	23	26	29
Orlando City	6	10	2	20	30	47
Columbus	5	8	5	20	26	28
Toronto FC	3	7	8	17	24	32
Philadelphia	4	10	4	16	25	33
CF Montréal	4	10	4	16	24	35
Atlanta	3	12	3	12	19	33

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	4	34	38	17
Los Angeles FC	10	5	4	34	35	19
San Jose	10	5	3	33	37	24
Houston	9	6	2	29	25	24
Real Salt Lake	8	6	3	27	29	25
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	5	26	24	24
Portland	7	8	3	24	33	33
Seattle FC	7	7	3	24	20	22
Minn. United	6	6	6	24	20	25
Colorado	7	10	1	22	27	25
LA Galaxy	5	7	7	22	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	6	21	32	29
Austin FC	4	9	5	17	22	36
Sporting K.C.	4	12	2	14	18	46

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday

Houston at New England, 4:30pm

Saturday, August 15

Red Bulls at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Columbus at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm
D.C. United at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Orlando City, 7:30pm
New England at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
LA Galaxy at Houston, 8:30pm
Miami at Nashville, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Colorado, 9:30pm
Minnesota at Salt Lake, 9:30pm
San Diego FC at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
St Louis City at San Jose, 10:30pm

Sunday, August 16

Philadelphia at **NYCFC**, 6pm
Portland at Chicago, 6pm
FC Dallas at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	**11**	**3**	**4**	**37**	**23**	**12**
Washington	11	4	3	36	26	13
Utah Royals FC	10	5	3	33	31	19
San Diego	10	6	2	32	24	19
Kansas City	9	7	2	29	29	25
Portland	8	6	4	28	28	25
North Carolina	8	6	3	27	28	23
Angel City	7	7	2	23	24	17
Seattle	7	7	2	23	20	21
Orlando	7	9	2	23	22	26
Denver Summit FC	5	7	5	20	22	23
Boston Legacy FC	5	8	5	20	19	24
Houston	5	8	4	19	19	25
Bay FC	5	9	3	18	18	24
Louisville	4	11	2	14	21	34
Chicago	4	13	0	12	9	33

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday

North Carolina 2, Denver Summit FC 0

Friday

Louisville at Orlando, 7pm
San Diego at Gotham FC, 8pm

Saturday

Utah Royals FC at Denver Summit FC, 4pm
North Carolina at Washington, 6:30pm
Kansas City at Houston, 8:45pm

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The POST Line

MLB
Thursday
American League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Mets	-108-110	GUARDIANS
ORIOLES	$142-168	Angels
MARINERS	$107-129	Tigers
RED SOX	$154-186	White Sox
Twins	$100-120	ROYALS
BREWERS	$117-141	Pirates
PHILLIES	$270-334	Nationals
BRAVES	$132-159	Marlins
Padres	-106-113	D'BACKS
REDS	$132-156	Athletics
Blue Jays	$100-120	CUBS

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
FEVER	1.5 (194.5)	Aces
FIRE	1.5 (187.5)	Tempo

NFL Preseason
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Panthers	1 (35)	CARDINALS

game held in Canton, Oh.

College Football
Saturday Aug. 29

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
TCU	7 (49)	North Carolina
USC	38.5 (59.5)	San Jose State
VIRGINIA	5.5 (54.5)	Nc State
N. DAKOTA ST.	7.5 (48.5)	Jacksonville St.
E. MICHIGAN	8.5 (53.5)	Sacramento St.
STANFORD	4.5 (50.5)	Hawaii
FLORIDA ST.	30.5 (53.5)	New Mexico St.
UNLV	5.5 (59.5)	Memphis

CFL

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
	Thursday	
Stampeders	1.5 (67.5)	ARGONAUTS
	Friday	
ROUGHRIDERS	7.5 (61.5)	Redblacks

TOP PLAY

Targeting Cardinals' Beck for passing TD is where it's at

By ERICH RICHTER

The National Football League is back on "Thursday Night Football."

It's Cardinals-Panthers in the first NFL preseason game of the year in the annual Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio.

Most oddsmakers have the Panthers as slight favorites, coming in at -120 on Fanatics Sportsbook and giving 1.5-points against the spread.

Stud rookie running back Jeremiah Love will not be featured in this game as he is expected to be inactive on Thursday night.

Arizona will send former Georgia and Miami quarterback Carson Beck as the starter on Thursday against five-year veteran Kenny Pickett before the two make way for some other roster hopefuls.

After Pickett, Haynes King, an undrafted free agent out of Georgia Tech and Texas A&M, is expected to get the remainder of the work.

Kedon Slovis is the backup for Beck in Arizona on Thursday night.

Typically, underdogs have had strong performances for the Hall of Fame Game of late, going 7-4 straight up and 8-2-1 against the spread in that time.

It'll be the first time that Mike LaFleur will get a taste of head coaching action, as the first-year head coach will send a rookie quarterback to bring out his rookie coaches' game plan.

I actually like there to be a bit of scoring in this game, despite the low total of 34.5 (-108, Kalshi).

The Over has performed pretty well in this spot, going 4-0 in the past four seasons.

It's definitely an Over spot considering the first two quarterbacks that will play tonight are expected to be plenty competent.

Target Beck to throw a touchdown pass, with odds coming in at +235 on Underdog.

THE PLAY: Over 34.5 total points (-108, Kalshi); Over 0.5 passing touchdowns for Carson Beck (+235, Underdog)

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Mets	McLean (R)		7-7	3.29	10-12	—	—	0-0	1-1	18.1	1.96
Guardians	Griffin (L)	(1:10pm)	12-3	3.06	17-5	—	—	1-0	2-1	19.0	4.74
Athletics	Barnett (R)		1-1	4.85	0-1	—	—	—	0-0	5.0	5.40
Reds	Abbott (L)	(12:40pm)	5-7	3.91	11-12	—	—	—	0-2	17.0	2.65
Blue Jays	Cease (R)		7-5	2.41	13-7	0-0	3.18	4-2	1-1	21.0	1.71
Cubs	Peterson (L)	(2:20pm)	—	—	—	—	—	0-2	2-0	18.2	1.45
Angels	Johnson (R)		2-6	7.63	2-7	1-0	0.00	1-0	1-2	12.2	9.95
Orioles	Young (R)	(12:35pm)	8-2	3.31	15-3	—	—	0-0	1-0	19.0	2.84
Tigers	Valdez (L)		6-7	4.41	9-13	1-0	1.80	8-4	1-1	12.2	7.11
Mariners	Miller (R)	(4:10pm)	4-5	2.80	4-8	1-0	0.00	3-0	0-2	16.1	4.96
White Sox	Castillo (R)		3-9	5.06	6-11	0-0	9.00	2-3	0-2	17.0	6.35
Red Sox	Suarez (L)	(7:10pm)	4-3	3.15	11-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	11.1	4.76
Twins	Ober (R)		7-3	4.45	10-6	0-0	3.00	1-5	1-0	15.1	4.70
Royals	Wacha (R)	(7:40pm)	5-8	3.51	7-15	0-1	6.35	6-2	0-1	19.0	1.89
Pirates	Ashcraft (R)		11-4	3.96	15-7	0-0	9.00	0-0	2-1	14.0	7.71
Brewers	May (R)	(2:10pm)	5-7	4.38	10-11	0-1	4.76	0-2	0-1	16.0	3.38
Nationals	Mikolas (R)		3-8	5.67	5-5	—	—	2-5	0-1	13.2	6.59
Phillies	Sánchez (L)	(6:05pm)	14-4	2.61	17-6	0-0	5.23	3-2	3-0	17.1	2.60
Marlins	Junk (R)		5-6	4.58	7-8	0-1	14.40	1-1	1-1	13.2	4.61
Braves	Pérez (L)	(7:15pm)	7-6	3.24	9-8	0-0	7.20	1-1	1-0	16.0	1.69
Padres	Buehler (R)		6-5	5.18	15-7	0-1	12.60	7-1	1-0	15.1	4.11
D'Backs	Drake (L)	(9:40pm)	0-0	4.85	2-1	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	13.0	4.85

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Cubs sweep Dodgers

Pete Crow-Armstrong homered twice and drove in four runs, and the Cubs swept **Shohei Ohtani** and the struggling Dodgers with a wild 7-6 victory in Chicago.

Nico Hoerner added three hits as Chicago won for the fourth time in five games.

Ohtani went deep twice as Los Angeles was swept for the second straight series. The two-time defending World Series champions have dropped six in a row for the first time since a seven-game skid in July 2025.

● In Boston, **Wilyer Abreu** homered for the fourth time in three games, **Sonny Gray** struck out eight in six innings for his 14th win, and the surging Red Sox beat the White Sox 4-0. Boston has won seven straight, tied with Atlanta for the longest active streak in the majors, and has won 25 of 28.

● In Atlanta**, Bryce Elder** pitched one-hit ball over seven innings, **Drake Baldwin** drove in two runs, and the Braves won their season-high seventh in a row, beating the Marlins 4-1.

● In Denver, **Junior Caminero** homered for the third time in the series, **Victor Mesa Jr.** tripled twice and the AL-best Rays beat the Rockies 4-0 for a three-game sweep.

● In Houston, **Ernie Clement**'s two-run homer in the 10th inning lifted the Blue Jays to a 5-4 win over the Astros.

NFL: Donald works out with Rams

Aaron Donald formally worked out for the Rams, presumably taking one of the final steps before the superstar defensive tackle decides whether to end his 2 1/2-year retirement.

The 35-year-old Donald participated in a hosted workout, according to the league's official transaction wire, which records such workouts with free agents before their possible signings to NFL rosters.

● Falcons outside linebacker **Jalon Walker** will miss the 2026 season with a torn ACL, the organization announced. Walker was carted off the field at training camp Tuesday after going down following a pass-rush play.

WNBA: Dream beat Mercury

Rhyne Howard had 23 points and eight assists, **Allisha Gray** added 20 points, and the Atlanta Dream beat the Phoenix Mercury 96-82 in College Park, Ga.

Angel Reese had 14 points and 10 rebounds for her 21st double-double of the season for Atlanta (19-11), which has won six of its past seven games.

● In Washington, **Shakira Austin** had 27 points and 13 rebounds, and the Washington Mystics overcame a 20-point deficit to beat the Dallas Wings 96-92 for their fifth straight victory.

ETC.: Brooks to stay with Suns

The Suns and veteran forward **Dillon Brooks** agreed to a three-year, $73 million extension that will keep him with the team through 2030, according to two people familiar with the deal.

The 30-year-old Brooks averaged a career-high 20.2 points last season, his first with the Suns.

● In Miami, **Lionel Messi** scored his first two goals since the World Cup and took the career scoring lead in the Leagues Cup as Inter Miami overcame an early deficit to beat Atlético San Luis 4-2.

STITCHES

Halos for the Angelic Stitches

Need a futures bet? I know it's only August, but former Mount Vernon Deputy Police Commissioner Jennifer Lackard is a lock to be named "Mother of the Year" after allegedly driving the getaway car for her son's gang shooting. Congratulations, Jennifer!

The Angels visit the Orioles. The O's Brandon Young is 3-0 in his past seven starts but gave up four runs in his latest. The Halos' Ryan Johnson has lost two in a row but tossed a one-hitter at the O's in June. Play $50 on the Angels.

-$

We had to solve a huge problem Tuesday night. No, my son didn't need me to pick him up in our getaway car. But we hadn't won back-to-back games in a month.

The Stitch-u-weather forecast called for a Sonny Gray night at Fenway. Gray delivered, picking up his 14th win. Wilyer Abreu homered and the Red Sox wiped out the White Sox 4-0. Winner! Down -626 oilcanboyds.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY Aug. 6	FRI Aug. 7	SAT Aug. 8	SUN Aug. 9	MON Aug. 10
	NO GAME	Atlanta 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Atlanta 3:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Atlanta 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME
	Cleveland 1:10 SNY 880 AM	Pittsburgh 6:40 PIX11 880 AM	Pittsburgh 6:40 SNY 880 AM	Pittsburgh 1:35 SNY 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	Las Vegas 12:30 ABC	NO GAME

Saturday, Aug. 15		Today		Friday	
	Atlanta United 7:30 Apple TV		Santos Laguna 7:30 Apple TV		SD Wave FC 8:00 Prime Video

Today’s Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
1:10 p.m.	Mets at Guardians	SNY, 880 AM
2 p.m.	Pirates at Brewers	MLBN
5 p.m.	Tigers at Mariners (joined in progress)	MLBN
7:30 p.m.	Twins at Royals	ESPN
NFL FOOTBALL: PRESEASON		
8 p.m.	Hall of Fame Game: Panthers vs. Cardinals	NBC, Peacock
WNBA BASKETBALL		
7 p.m.	Aces at Fever	Prime Video
9 p.m.	Sparks at Lynx	Prime Video
MEN’S SOCCER		
7:30 p.m.	Leagues Cup: Santos Laguna at NYCFC	Apple TV
8 p.m.	Leagues Cup: Philadelphia Union at Cruz Azul	FS1
GOLF		
9 a.m.	Ladies Euro Tour: PIF London Championship, 1st Round	Golf
11 a.m.	2026 U.S. Women’s Amateur: Round of 64	Golf
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, 1st Round	Golf
TENNIS		
11 a.m.	ATP/WTA Canada: Singles 3rd Rd., Doubles 1st Rd.	Tennis
LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES		
1 p.m.	Lake Mary, Fla. vs. Clayton, N.C.	ESPN2
5 p.m.	Owensboro, Ky. vs. Guayama, Puerto Rico	ESPN2
GYMNASTICS		
10 p.m.	USGA: 2026 Xfinity U.S. Gymnastics Championships	NBCSN
HORSE RACING		
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
4 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
AFL FOOTBALL		
5:25 a.m. (Fri.)	Hawthorn at Brisbane	FS2

TENNIS

Favorites to win 2026 U.S. Open singles title

MEN	ODDS	WOMEN	ODDS
Jannik Sinner	-155	Aryna Sabalenka	+250
Carlos Alcaraz	+260	Coco Gauff	+750
Alexander Zverev	+800	Naomi Osaka	+800
Novak Djokovic	13/1	Elena Rybakina	11/1
Daniil Medvedev	27/1	Mirra Andreeva	11/1
Felix Auger-Aliassime	35/1	Iga Swiatek	12/1
Taylor Fritz	35/1	Jessica Pegula	13/1
Ben Shelton	40/1	Amanda Anisimova	19/1
Jakub Mensik	40/1	Marta Kostyuk	19/1
Joao Fonseca	40/1	Alexandra Eala	20/1
Rafael Jodar	45/1	Karolina Muchova	20/1
Lorenzo Musetti	55/1	Linda Noskova	22/1
Arthur Fils	55/1	Iva Jovic	25/1
Holger Rune	55/1	Madison Keys	30/1
Alexander Bublik	55/1	Victoria Mboko	35/1
Jiri Lehecka	55/1	Barbora Krejcikova	35/1
Jack Draper	60/1	Qinwen Zheng	40/1
Tommy Paul	65/1	Elina Svitolina	45/1
Alex de Minaur	65/1	Belinda Bencic	50/1

ODDS & ENDS

MLB

Favorites to win 2026 AL pennant

TEAM	ODDS
Yankees	+240
Red Sox	+475
Rays	+500
Astros	+800
White Sox	10/1
Mariners	10/1
Guardians	14/1
Rangers	16/1
Tigers	35/1
Twins	35/1
Orioles	45/1
Blue Jays	66/1
Royals	500/1
Angels	500/1
Athletics	500/1

Favorites to win 2026 NL pennant

TEAM	ODDS
Dodgers	-110
Brewers	+450
Braves	+550
Cubs	+800
Phillies	10/1
Diamondbacks	35/1
Padres	35/1
Pirates	66/1
Marlins	125/1
Cardinals	300/1
Reds	500/1
Rockies	500/1
Mets	500/1
Giants	500/1
Nationals	500/1

ALCS

WINNING DIVISION	ODDS
AL Central	+400
AL East	-160
AL West	+310

NLCS

WINNING DIVISION	ODDS
NL Central	+250
NL East	+320
NL West	-115

Favorites to win 2026 AL MVP

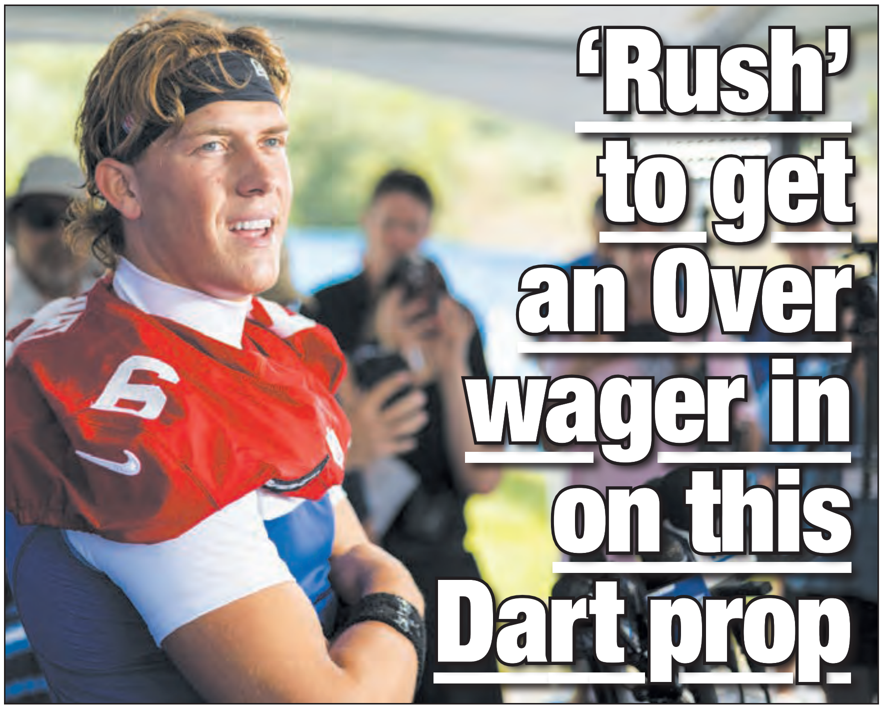
PLAYER	ODDS
Yordan Alvarez	-1,000
Junior Caminero	+650
Ben Rice	25/1
Bobby Witt Jr.	66/1
Dillon Dingler	80/1
Byron Buxton	100/1
Julio Rodríguez	100/1
Willson Contreras	100/1

Favorites to win 2026 NL MVP

PLAYER	ODDS
Pete Crow-Armstrong	-120
Shohei Ohtani	+100
Kyle Schwarber	100/1
CJ Abrams	100/1

BET SMART

‘Rush’ to get an Over wager in on this Dart prop



A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY: Jaxson Dart had nine rushing touchdowns in 12 starts last year, so The Post’s Malik Smith believes the young signal-caller will prove the sportsbooks wrong and is taking him to go Over 5.5 touchdowns this season. Corey Sipkin

By MALIK SMITH

This time last year, the Giants were hoping that an aging Russell Wilson or Jameis Winston would provide the veteran presence at quarterback necessary to compete. That quickly proved to be misguided thinking, but it opened the door for then-rookie Jaxson Dart to break out as a legitimate option at quarterback.

Dart burst onto the scene last season and immediately changed the dynamic of a Giants offense that was at best average and at worst one of the lowest-scoring units in the NFL under previous head coach Brian Daboll. Dart’s flashes weren’t enough to save Daboll’s job, but the Giants hope new head coach John Harbaugh can mold his ability as a dual-threat quarterback.

The main critique of Dart’s game last season was his aggressive playing style. Dart was quick to scramble out of the pocket and took his fair share of big hits because of his fearlessness as a runner.

Dart missed two games after sustaining a concussion against the Bears, but a scramble play against the Patriots that saw the quarterback get de-cleated stands out the most. That play ignited a flurry of conversations about Dart needing to change his style.

“I’m not going to turn myself into a pocket-passing quarterback. I’m not going to change the style that I play,” Dart said on the “DeepCut” podcast earlier this year, pushing back on the idea that he should stop running.

“If you try to make too many adjustments and make somebody into who they’re not, then you’re not going to get the most out of that person and that player.”

Harbaugh seems to buy into the idea that Dart’s running ability is an asset and even compared him to Lamar Jackson in an interview with ESPN football analyst Domonique Foxworth, saying that Dart “can live in a lot of different worlds football-wise.”

“Now we can also get in the gun or we can get in the pistol and we can run RPOs,” Harbaugh said. “We can run quarterback-driven runs with Jackson Dart, a lot of the stuff that we did in Baltimore with Lamar as well.”

That will be key for a specific player prop that sportsbooks have listed for Dart this season. The Over/Under on Dart’s rushing touchdowns this season is 5.5 at bet365 sportsbook.

Dart finished last season with nine rushing touchdowns in just 12 starts, so seeing this number drop nearly in half is interesting. Seven of his nine rushing touchdowns came inside the 20-yard line last season, five of the nine were inside the 10-yard line and four of the nine were inside the 5-yard line.

We should expect Dart to scale back some of the running he does in the middle of the field that leads to big hits and, on occasion, slide for first downs instead of challenging defenders straight up.

Cam Skattebo, Tyrone Tracy Jr. and Devin Singletary will presumably eat into some of Dart’s rushing attempts in the red zone if they stay healthy. The Giants also added plenty of receiving weapons around Dart to improve the passing game.

Even with those changes, I’m still very high on Dart’s ability to be an effective runner when plays break down and I’m even more encouraged that Harbaugh will scheme plays to take advantage of those skills.

I’ll bet on Dart to prove the books wrong and take him to go Over 5.5 touchdowns on the ground.

TAKE BY STORM

Liberty hold off Seattle again for sixth win in past seven games

By MADELINE KENNEY

The Liberty's game Wednesday against the Seattle Storm followed a similar pattern to Monday's win.

The Liberty jumped out to a strong first-quarter lead. This time, it was 21-6.

The Storm fought back and trailed by only four points heading into halftime.

LIBERTY 92
STORM 86

Boxscore Page 41

Seattle tied the game in the third quarter. Then, the Liberty rattled off a quick 12-2 run to build a 10-point advantage.

Seattle kept pace with the Liberty much longer than Monday, staying within four points of New York entering the fourth.

But the game yielded the same result as two days ago. The Liberty held on, beating the rebuilding Storm 92-86 on Wednesday at Barclays Center.

After a brutal 2-8 stretch, New York has now won six of its past seven games.

The biggest change over the past 2 ½ weeks?

"We're starting to realize how to win together," said Sabrina Ionescu, who overcame a shoddy first half to finish with 15 points, five rebounds and six assists. "We've been up in games, we've been down in games, and we've continued to put ourselves in so many different scenarios that you can really only do when you're out there playing. ... We're starting to figure out late game what are we trying to get to and in what situation, and so the fact that that's turning into wins is obviously huge, but we know we're not even close to where we want to be and I think that's the exciting part. There's many games ahead of us that we can continue to get better and build in the direction that we want to go to peak when playoffs come."

The Liberty entered this season with sky-high expectations. The higher-ups decided the team needed a new voice as New York parted ways with Sandy Brondello only a year after she led the franchise to its first championship.

Coach Chris DeMarco came in knowing that it was championship-or-bust this season.

But the Liberty haven't been as consistently dominant as they were billed to be in the preseason.

Injuries tested the team's depth and leaders.

The Liberty improved to 19-13 and remain seventh in the standings.

However, the Liberty appear to be on the upswing after a difficult July.

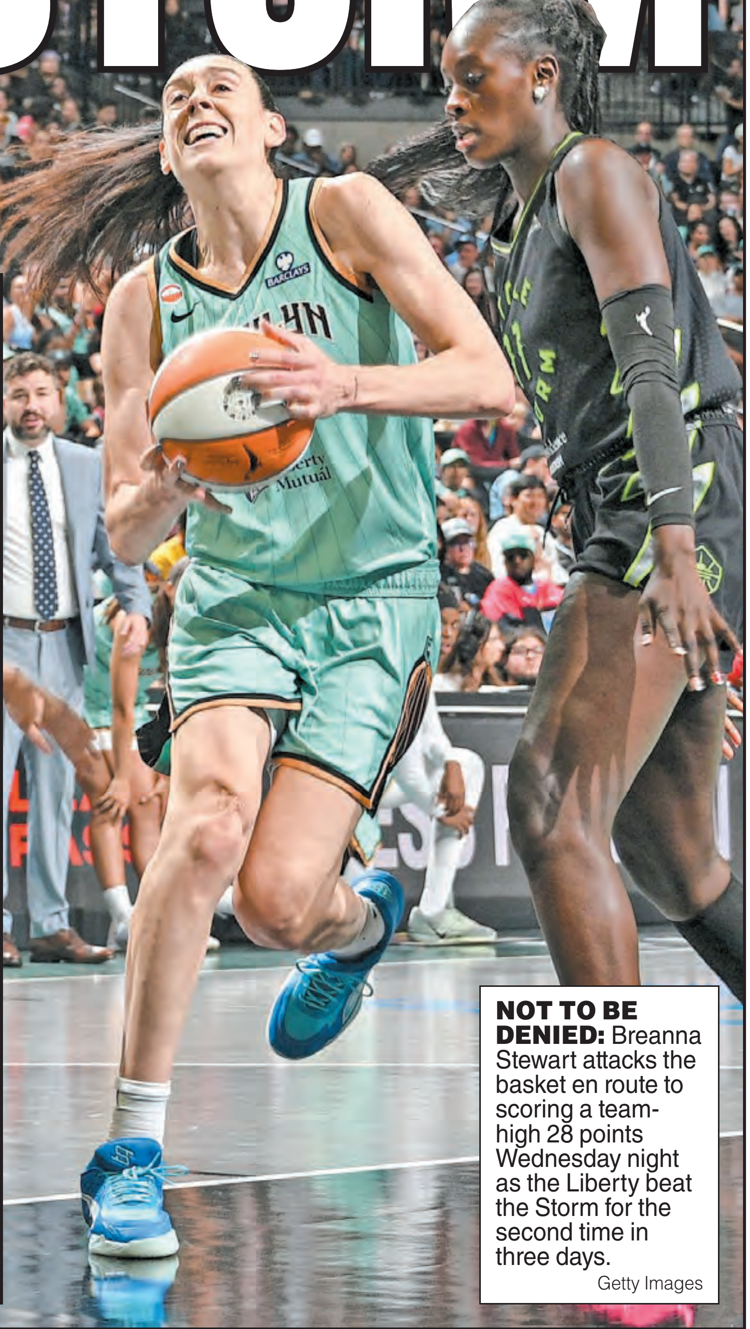
DeMarco inserted Rebecca Allen into the starting lineup on July 20 after she was practically out of the rotation for most of the first half of the season. The Liberty have won all but one game since.

"This lineup is just getting really comfortable with one another," said Breanna Stewart, who had a team-high 28 points to go with eight rebounds. "Obviously, having injuries and people being out and in early on made it tough for us to kind of find our rhythm, but to have our starters be pretty much set and then honestly, it gives the bench a better idea of how to feel comfortable when they're going to get in and I just feel like the flow of the game is at a really great place right now and we just try to continue to take advantage of that."

Wednesday may not have been the most convincing win. The Liberty beat the last-place Storm by only six points.

Jonquel Jones, who was three assists shy of a triple-double, doesn't necessarily care about the final score, but rather that the Liberty came out victorious.

"We've had a tough season, and I think for us, it's just being able to turn that corner, start a new chapter after All-Star," said Jones, who had 14 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists. "To be able to come in and be able to stack those wins, get some wins under us, and really just kind of see the light of day a little bit and give us that extra confidence that we need, it feels amazing."



NOT TO BE DENIED: Breanna Stewart attacks the basket en route to scoring a team-high 28 points Wednesday night as the Liberty beat the Storm for the second time in three days.

Getty Images

Team USA's World Cup roster to be unveiled today

By MADELINE KENNEY

The Liberty should be well represented at next month's FIBA World Cup tournament in Berlin.

Breanna Stewart is all but a lock for the U.S. and could be joined by Sabrina Ionescu, who is also in the conversation for one of the country's 12 spots.

Leonie Fiebich (if healthy) is expected to suit up for Germany, the host country, while Satou Sabally's status is less certain as she remains in concussion protocol.

Marine Johannes, Pauline Astier and Marine Fauthoux are candidates for the French national team, Raquel Carrera could play for Spain and Han Xu for China.

The tournament is scheduled to run Sept. 4-13 in Berlin, while the WNBA is on break.

Most official rosters haven't been released yet. Sue Bird, the first managing director of USA Basketball women's national team, is set to announce the U.S. roster Thursday during the third hour of NBC's "Today" show.

For more than a year, Bird has been weighing the hefty roster decision she faced.

The deep pool of U.S. candidates won't make Bird's decision easy. There are plenty of up-and-coming young stars who might take over certain U.S. mainstays' spots.

Here's The Post's prediction for the 2026 U.S. World Cup roster:

Guards: Caitlin Clark, Paige Bueckers, Sabrina Ionescu, Kelsey Plum, Chelsea Gray

Wings: Kahleah Copper, Rhyne Howard, Jackie Young

Bigs: A'ja Wilson, Breanna Stewart, Napheesa Collier, Aliyah Boston

This is essentially the 2024 Olympic roster with a few marginal changes.

Bueckers and Clark look to replace Diana Taurasi and Jewell Loyd, while Boston and Howard are poised to take Alyssa Thomas and Brittney Griner's spots.

One could wonder whether Plum and Ionescu's injuries this summer could cause Bird to balk at securing them roster spots.

Ionescu missed time with a foot injury and back soreness at the beginning of the WNBA season. She was a little rocky in the first few weeks of her return but has looked much more like herself as of late.

Meanwhile, Plum returned this week from a lower left leg injury that sidelined her for all of July.

Potential snub

Two years ago, Clark's absence from the 2024 Paris Games roster caused uproar.

If Olivia Miles is left off the upcoming roster, will the decision receive the same level of outrage? (Don't answer that.)

Miles hasn't played on the senior U.S. women's national team nor was she part of the training camp that took place during the NCAA Women's Final Four in Phoenix, which is why she might not get the call-up this time.

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On the move

Preakness to run 3 weeks, not two, after Derby in '27

Getty Images

SUNDAY FUN-DAY: The Preakness Stakes, won in 2025 by Napoleon Solo with Paco Lopez (No. 10), will be on a Sunday and three weeks after the Kentucky Derby.

By STEPHEN WHYNO

A big change is coming to horse racing's Triple Crown, with the Preakness Stakes moving to three weeks and a day after the Kentucky Derby and being run on Sunday for the first time.

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore and the Maryland Jockey Club announced the decision Wednesday. No Triple Crown race has ever taken place on a Sunday in the century-plus-old history of the series.

The shift marks a major change on the horse racing calendar, following significant debate and speculation. Except for 2020 during the pandemic, the Preakness has been on the third Saturday in May, two weeks after the Kentucky Derby, since 1950.

Maryland Jockey Club CEO Bill Knauf acknowledged the tradition while also calling this the time to move the Preakness back.

"It's been discussed for a very long time [and] we recognized the different trends and training methods recently," Knauf told The Associated Press. "We entered the discussion maybe even saying, 'Hey, is two weeks the right amount? I think the week was the right placement. It still gives an incredible test for a horse and a champion to go through that, even at three weeks."

The aim is to get more Derby horses to participate in the second leg of the Triple Crown. For decades, it was normalcy but has become increasingly rare in recent years.

Two consecutive and three of the past five Derby winners have bypassed the Preakness to aim for the final jewel, the Belmont Stakes in June. Of the 95 horses who ran in the Derby dating to 2022, just 13 have gone to the Preakness (13.7%) with just one winner in that group.

"We are going to move it back to be able to ensure that the winner of the Kentucky Derby will then be prepared to compete in the second leg of the Triple Crown," Moore said at a news conference in Annapolis. "By moving the day, you're then providing additional time and space for our horses and the people who compete in the Derby to be able to then now compete to be able to be part of that Triple Crown."

For at least next year, it has the chance to produce the opposite effect, with the Belmont scheduled for June 5, as announced Monday. Going from a three-week to a 13-day gap between the Preakness and Belmont could force owners and trainers to choose between them, given that modern 3-year-old thoroughbreds typically get significantly more time off.

Knauf said it was a decision made for the long-term future of the Preakness.

Hall of Famer Bob Baffert, who with American Pharoah in 2015 and Justify in 2018 is the only trainer to win the Triple Crown since Affirmed in 1978, said in a social media post Monday that if he has the right horse from the Kentucky Derby, he will continue to go to the Preakness annually. That was in response to the unveiling of a new championship series of races at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Belmont Park on Long Island and Saratoga Race Course in upstate New York and does not — for now — include the Preakness.

Future changes to the schedule are always possible beyond 2027. The shift does put the Preakness on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend beginning in 2028 and running through '31.

"We believe this creates tremendous excitement for our local economy and businesses," Knauf said. "Baltimore will become the place to be on Memorial Day weekends, as the spotlight of the racing world descends on Pimlico." *— AP*

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LIV TO SEE ANOTHER DAY

Upstart tour announces funding, but details on deal are lacking

GOING FOR THE GREEN: LIV Golf announced it has a new investor ready to pony up big bucks, but the future of the tour and players like Bryson DeChambeau remains unclear. Getty Images

By MARK CANNIZZARO

LIV Golf CEO Scott O'Neil announced Wednesday that the fledgling tour, with its Saudi financial backing having been pulled earlier this year, has found new investors that will keep it alive beyond the 2026 season.

O'Neil's announcement at Trump National Bedminster, where LIV Golf is conducting a tournament this week, confirmed a July 29 report by The Post that the tour was on the cusp of landing new investors to keep it alive.

"LIV Golf has an agreement in place with a lead investor, signed by the investor and approved by the board, to anchor the transaction and play a key role in supporting the path forward for the League's next era, driven by and for the players," O'Neil, who declined to name the investor, said Wednesday. "We're also seeing strong interest from more than a dozen additional parties to potentially serve as minority investors, creating a multi-partner model built for long-term stability and growth.

"Notably, our next chapter will make our players the majority equity holders in LIV Golf, a first for a major global sports league, and gives the League the foundation to keep growing the game worldwide. We anticipate finalizing terms in the coming weeks, with the goal of entering a transaction in September. In the meantime, our focus is on delivering a great week for fans and players at Bedminster and finishing the 2026 season strong."

The announcement came a day after O'Neil conducted an afternoon meeting with LIV players, which was followed by a players-only meeting led by Bryson DeChambeau.

As DeChambeau and other players exited the Tuesday meeting, they declined to comment.

Despite the encouraging news of new investors, though, a litany of questions still persists with LIV Golf, which has two more events scheduled before the end of the 2026 season after this week — Aug. 20-23 in Indianapolis and the season-finale team championship the next week in Michigan.

Numerous reports, however, say the Michigan event will not take place, though neither O'Neil nor anyone associated with LIV has confirmed that.

Reports from the golf course in Michigan, The Cardinal at Saint John Resort outside of Detroit, say no building of grandstands and other infrastructure for the event has begun, which is highly unusual for an event of that size.

O'Neil and LIV have reportedly been seeking a financial commitment of between $250 million and $300 million from investors.

Questions arise from those numbers, though, and what that $300 million will actually pay for. The purse for this week's event, for example, is $30 million. The purse for the Michigan event is $40 million.

Some players with more years remaining on their contracts are still owed huge amounts. Jon Rahm, for instance, is owed some $150 million of the $300 million contract he originally signed.

Other reports have LIV Golf filing for bankruptcy before relaunching itself as "LIV Golf 2.0" with new investors.

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Lifeline doesn't feel like real answer

Mark Cannizzaro

THE setting was perfectly fitting.

It took place at the very golf club where President Donald Trump this weekend claimed to have won his club championship with a gross score of 70, an outlandishly low number for an 80-year-old to shoot (even if he were a professional).

What has transpired at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J., as this week's LIV Golf event is to begin Thursday is akin to a bit of a sleight-of-hand shell game.

It's a scenario that's difficult to comprehend and one that a scant few LIV players are willing to talk about as they've spent the past two days declining to speak to reporters.

The one person to speak about a new direction for LIV — being termed "LIV 2.0" — is its CEO Scott O'Neil.

O'Neil on Wednesday conducted a news conference to announce that the fledgling tour, which had its Saudi financial backing pulled earlier this year, has found new investors that will keep it alive beyond the 2026 season.

The announcement confirmed a July 29 report by The Post that stated the tour was on the cusp of landing new investors to keep it alive — a report that LIV had not commented on before Wednesday.

This was — and is — good news for LIV, which has been seeking some $250 million to $350 million from outside investors.

O'Neil declined to identify the name of the "lead investor" and added that there are other smaller investors on board as well. He also declined to say when the deal will be done, saying he knows the timeline but doesn't want to make it public.

Now comes the difficult part.

How is this going to work?

What is $300 million to $350 million going to do to help revive a tour that, with the unrealistic Saudi Public Investment Fund money, originally lured several of its top players (Jon Rahm and Bryson DeChambeau to name a couple) for more than that sum of money for each of them?

The purse for this week's Bedminster tournament is $30 million. The purse for the Aug. 27-30 team championship event in Michigan is slated at $40 million, though numerous reports say that event is not going to happen.

The new iteration of the tour is committed to more responsible spending. It will cut its event schedule down from 14 to 10, will shrink purses and surely make many more financial cutbacks.

But is LIV, with more responsible spending, going to be able to retain the likes of DeChambeau, its biggest star whose contract is up after 2026?

One thing that seems certain is DeChambeau's determination to make LIV 2.0 work.

According to O'Neil, DeChambeau has been instrumental in helping secure new investors with connections in the game he has. He, too, has emerged as the leader of the LIV player pack, having led a players-only meeting Tuesday after O'Neil met with the team captains.

O'Neil's LIV 2.0 model also has the players with equity in the tour, which sounds great on the surface. But the Saudi PIF reportedly spent nearly $6 billion on LIV Golf since its inception in 2022 without turning a shred of profit.

Unless there are drastic changes, which include players making pennies on the dollars they've been making with the PIF money, how is the tour going to turn a profit?

And what is the incentive for players having equity in something that's not making money?

Another unanswered question with this news of the new investors is whether O'Neil has guaranteed to the new investors that the product they're investing in will include the likes of DeChambeau and Rahm.

When asked about the importance of retaining Rahm and DeChambeau, O'Neil said, "[We] would certainly love them to come along for the ride and journey because they carry maybe more weight than anybody in the game."

That hardly sounded concrete.

There also remains the issue of the LIV Golf team championship in Michigan.

"We have not made any final formal decisions and hope to in the coming weeks," O'Neil said about the event that's scheduled to take place in three weeks. "This is a very fluid situation."

When asked if there's anything that might "prevent" the deal with the new investors going through, O'Neil said, "This is a moment that we're very happy about, that we're thrilled to announce, that we're proud to be a part of."

Asked whether there will definitely be a 2027 LIV Golf season, O'Neil answered, "And '28 and '29 and '30."

Morals of the story

Lawyers believe Romo could find his way back on air at CBS after OWI arrest

TIME WILL TELL: Tony Romo was placed on leave until further notice by CBS after being arrested July 23 on suspicion of operating a vehicle while intoxicated but could find himself back on air depending on the language in his contract.
USA Today Network

By BRIDGET REILLY

Will Tony Romo's CBS exile be permanent?

Many have speculated that he could be done at the network after his July 23 OWI arrest and CBS' decision to place him on leave until "further notice."

However, based on information The Post gathered from three contract lawyers and a person familiar with typical sports media contracts, all may not be lost for the former Cowboys quarterback.

The Athletic reported that Romo's 10-year, $180 million deal includes a morals clause — similar to all major talent contracts — "one that networks can challenge if a star is unable to represent their brand in a positive fashion after a public embarrassment."

Romo is set to earn $72 million over the next four years. His fate now could depend on the language within the non-disclosed contract that he agreed to in 2017 when he was considered the top analyst in the NFL.

Alex Davis, the founder of Omni Law P.C. — who has negotiated these clauses himself on behalf of both talent and producers — believes Romo likely received "very favorable language" in the clause given his caliber and the value of the contract.

If the clause uses broad language (i.e. stating CBS could let him go for any kind of act or scandal) or subjective language (i.e. stating the company's sole judgment), it would favor the network, which could be souring on him given his lucrative deal — and what some consider declining skills in the booth — combined with his current legal predicament.

Ross Pitcoff, founder and managing partner of Pitcoff Law Group, added it was a "savvy" and "conservative" move by CBS to suspend Romo first, showing — even if the plan is to terminate — to the public that an internal investigation is being conducted.

From this, Pitcoff believes there was "clearly some embarrassment" felt by the network.

On the other hand, if the morals clause mentions a qualifier of a felony or conviction, that would favor the 46-year-old Romo.

Romo has not been convicted, and in Wisconsin, a first-offense OWI is typically a civil offense, not a criminal charge.

Yet, Uzoma Eze, partner and Texas law chair of Romano Law, suggested there could be a choice of law provision within the contract, meaning CBS could have chosen to operate under New York law or California law or any other state if needed regarding Romo.

Eze said those provisions are "typical" for these types of contracts.

According to a person familiar with typical sports media contracts, there are several reasons behind morals clause issues — such as theft, insubordination, workplace misconduct, violence and a felony — but a DUI almost never falls within that.

The person predicted CBS would want to see a police report to see if there is anything the network can use, but said it's unlikely to find something that would invoke the morals clause.

Romo is represented by Creative Artists Agency (CAA), which represents many clients at CBS. Davis explained there is a possibility Romo was simply offered an A-level precedent contract (most favorable to talent) automatically.

Yet, even if a baseline agreement was sent — one heavily favored for the studio — Davis said these morals clause provisions are "never overlooked."

If the situation leads to a contract fight, it could go to arbitration, which would be handled privately and possibly end up in a settlement.

CBS could buy Romo out of the contract, or, if the clause language heavily favors Romo, the former NFLer could insist on the full contract price or push the network to proceed with the contract and go back on air, Davis explained.

Romo could also sue the network if he finds the reason behind a termination to be invalid or if he felt there was another interpretation of the clause that wouldn't justify the decision, Pitcoff added. He could argue he is entitled to damages through compensation he otherwise would have received had CBS not improperly invoked the clause.

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Infantino has FIFA's 'full support' after emergency meeting

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Embattled FIFA president Gianni Infantino has the "full support" of the FIFA secretary general and members of the FIFA management board, soccer's governing body announced in a statement, while also seeming to send a message to its critics.

The statement came following a crisis meeting in Morocco on Wednesday and came amid the fallout of Infantino's failed plan to sell off stakes in FIFA competitions to private investment, officially known as the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal.

The massive backlash to the plan, which included UEFA and its 55 member nations threatening to boycott the World Cup over it, was the latest controversy that had the FIFA prez back on his heels. Wednesday's statement was meant to try to quell some of the controversy and, in part, said that the meeting in Morocco will "strengthen FIFA's governance, help restore confidence in the organization and enable us to prepare for the major events and challenges ahead in a united and transparent manner."

Infantino had taken to his own social media accounts to post a similar statement and claim that the members in attendance had "fully upheld support" for him and FIFA secretary general Mattias Grafström.

Both the FIFA statement and Infantino's social media post also included a defiant message to those who have criticized them.

"We also agreed that FIFA will not tolerate any attacks on its integrity and will take all necessary measures to defend its reputation," Infantino wrote on Instagram, with the statement using similar language.

Infantino has been facing mounting pressure in the wake of the FFE, which has come from across the global spectrum.

UEFA has called on Infantino to go, and the Football Association of Wales has already withdrawn its letter of support for his reelection as FIFA president next year, and England is set to do the same.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney publicly gave a vote of no confidence for Infantino on Wednesday and called the pulled plan "fatal."

"It should be fatal," Carney said. "Certainly I don't have confidence in Mr. Infantino."

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham labeled Infantino the "wrong man to lead" global soccer.

Prince Ali bin Al Hussein, the president of the Jordanian Football Association, made a blistering accusation against Infantino and FIFA of attempting to "blackmail" the JFA into supporting Infantino's reelection bid.

FIFA's statement Wednesday did not directly address the criticisms, but attempted to smooth over the anger over the FFE proposal by acknowledging mistakes.

"The meeting also addressed the FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal, where mistakes made were acknowledged," the statement read. "It was agreed that it was not the intention for the FIFA council and FIFA member associations to feel excluded from the process and that the process should have been handled differently. It was further acknowledged that errors were also made after the proposal was leaked to media.

"In a separate letter to the FIFA council and FIFA member associations, an apology was made for these errors together with a commitment to ensure they do not happen again. A review will now be conducted, and a report will be presented to the FIFA council at its next scheduled meeting."

AIN'T THAT A KICK

Lombard's soccer athleticism shows in smooth 'D'

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Asked about George Lombard Jr. on Wednesday, Cody Bellinger offered what is a high compliment in the sport.

"Just a great kid," Bellinger said. "Just a baseball player."

The praise was understood but not wholly correct. Lombard was a soccer player, too.

The new Yankees shortstop delayed specializing in one sport, playing both baseball and soccer all through high school. In his senior year — months before he became the Yankees' first-round pick — the defender (and his brother, Jacob) helped lead Gulliver Prep to a Florida state championship.

With Lombard looking the part of a top prospect in his first two major league games, homering Tuesday and singling Wednesday while putting on a show defensively, that unique background has been highlighted.

"There's a physicality to what he does," manager Aaron Boone said of Lombard's shortstop play. "But there's a quickness and there's a balance. I think his soccer background helps him, but just a really good athlete."

Lombard said he did not want to give up soccer, a sport he loves, but his baseball ability was clear.

He believes the experience of playing soccer until age 18 is helping.

"With overall athleticism, the footwork, the agility," Lombard said before Wednesday's 3-1 loss, "I definitely think that helped me develop."

Few people star in both soccer and baseball, and few shortstops can make the plays Lombard became known for during his climb up the minor league ladder. In just two big league games, he has provided a peek at what minor league evaluators have seen for years.

Wednesday, there was a "sparkler," as Boone termed it, in the third inning after JJ Wetherholt cracked a would-be, one-hop single up the middle. Lombard had time for one step and one full-body dive, stabbing the ball out of the air, hitting the outfield grass, immediately trampolining back to his feet and throwing a strike to first.

"Special play," Boone said. "I heard [Ryan] Weathers talk about how long he is, and that's a good way of describing it."

A night earlier, Lombard used his speed and length to reach and snatch a ground ball with a backhand, then hit Jazz Chisholm Jr. in the chest while his momentum took him into left field to start the double play.

"George is as gifted a defender as I've ever been around," said first base and infield coach Dan Fiorito, who also had worked with Lombard as a roving instructor in 2023, then as the organization's minor league outfield/infielder coordinator in 2024-25. "You see the feet, the actions, the arm strength, just his poise out there — how natural the game seems to come to him.

"... The work ethic is also unmatched. He goes out there, and it's an area he takes a lot of pride in."

There were few concerns about Lombard's defense as he made his way through the system; his excellent range and arm pair with an intelligence and calmness that belie his 21 years.

The questions concerned his bat, which came around at each level of the minors but required weeks or months to do so. In his first glimpse of major league pitching, he has gone 2-for-6 with that homer and two strikeouts, the second coming on a 100 mph fastball from Ryne Stanek with two runners on base in Wednesday's eighth inning.

Before the game, Aaron Judge said Lombard's debut was "incredible."

"Seen him in spring training, you see the tools, you see how he carries himself, the personality," Judge said. "He's got it all."

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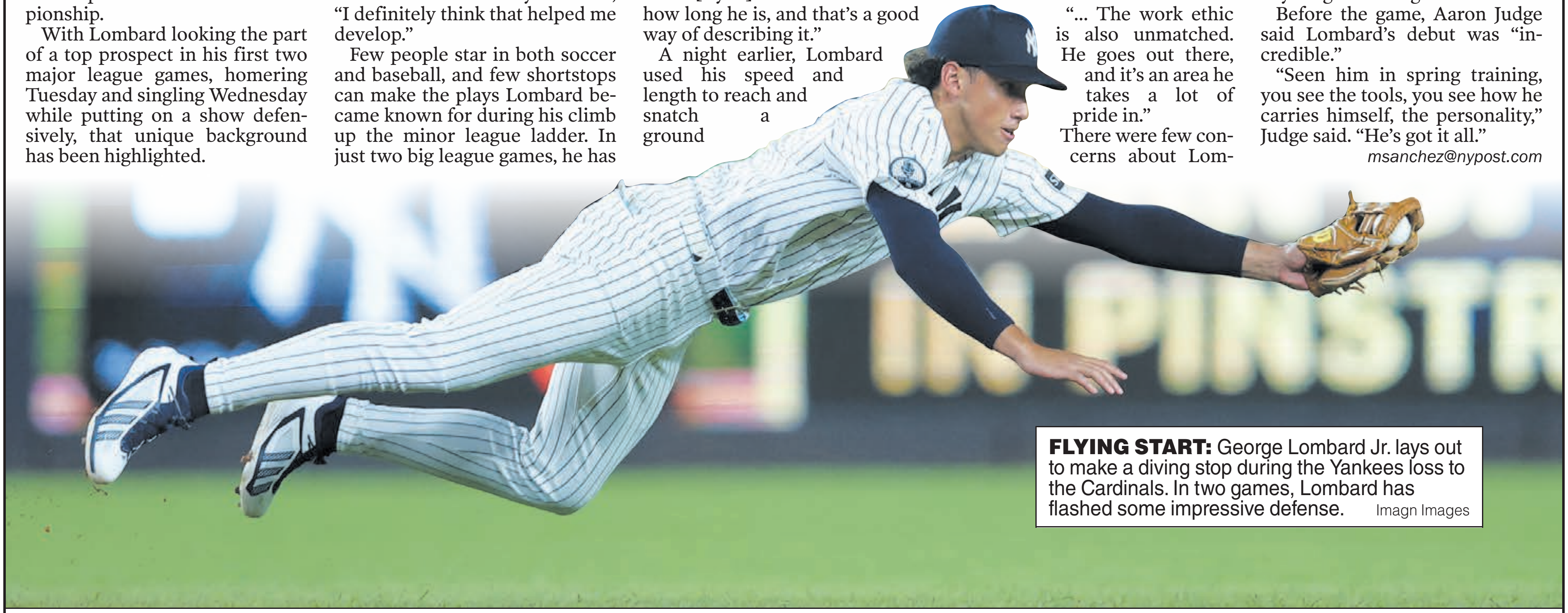


FLYING START: George Lombard Jr. lays out to make a diving stop during the Yankees loss to the Cardinals. In two games, Lombard has flashed some impressive defense. Imagn Images

Schmidt OK a day after cutting session short

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

YANKEES NOTES

On an encouraging afternoon of Yankees injury developments — most notably Aaron Judge getting cleared for some light activities — the club also received positive news concerning Clarke Schmidt.

Schmidt, who had to cut short a live batting practice Tuesday because of what he believed and hoped was cramping in his forearm, was informed it indeed "seems like" it was cramping, Aaron Boone said.

"Clarke we feel like is probably good to go," the manager said before Wednesday's 3-1 loss to the Cardinals in The Bronx. "He got a lot of treatment [Tuesday]. The doc didn't seem overly concerned."

The Yankees at least felt a level of concern when Schmidt, who is beginning to build up following 2025 Tommy John surgery, felt the discomfort, which prompted him to throw two "innings" rather than three.

The next step for Schmidt, who was not expected to throw Wednesday, will be to play catch Thursday "and then hopefully do his side [session] at some point this weekend," Boone said.

Without further hiccups, Schmidt could graduate soon into a rehab assignment.

Considering general manager Brian Cashman did not upgrade the bullpen at the trade deadline in part because he felt the club would have internal reinforcements, Schmidt's eventual return to the staff has grown in importance.

➤ **Cody Bellinger**, who is a week and a half into what is expected to be a four-to-six-week absence with a hamstring strain, took on-field batting practice for the first time since suffering the injury July 25.

"That was a big step," said Bellinger, who added that he has been feeling well but lacks a clear return timetable.

Bellinger has been running — though not at full speed — in a straight line and has several more hurdles to clear before he is ready for activation or a rehab assignment.

➤ **Heliot Ramos** (1-for-3 with a second-inning double) picked up his first hit as a Yankee.

➤ **Kervin Castro**, **Tim Hill** and **Paul Blackburn** combined for 3 $^2/_3$ scoreless innings.

The bullpen has pitched to a majors-best 2.56 ERA in the past 55 games, holding opponents to a .200 batting average.

➤ The best Yankees hitter in the past four weeks: **Austin Wells**.

Since July 9, the catcher has posted a .931 OPS with four home runs in 18 games.

"I do feel like over the last few weeks, there's been some steady improvement," Boone said before Wells went 1-for-2, "and hopefully moving forward, more in line with the presence I feel like he could be, especially at the bottom of the order. I feel like he's getting closer to that version."

Warren may have pitched way into bullpen

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Someone is going to be sent to the bullpen, and Will Warren didn't help his cause to avoid that fate Wednesday night.

When Carlos Rodón returns, it's going to be either Warren or Ryan Weathers.

With the way Weathers has pitched of late, it is hard to see the Yankees demoting him.

Warren was coming off a terrific outing in a win over the Cubs, but after a strong start Wednesday, he struggled to go deep in the 3-1 loss to the Cardinals at the Stadium. The right-hander was able to record only one out in the sixth after giving up four hits and three runs in the previous frame.

"There's definitely a lot of uncertainty. I think it's a good thing we have all these arms," Warren said. "At the end of the day, my job is to take the ball every time I get it. Whenever that is, I'm going to go out there and try to execute."

Warren did finish with five strikeouts, but he tired late, yielding five of his seven hits in the fifth and sixth innings. With Yankees hitters continuing to slump, he didn't have much wiggle room and paid for that shaky fifth. He was close to getting out of the jam after coming back from a 3-1 count to strike out César Prieto for the second out. But the next batter, JJ Wetherholt, doubled in two runs with a drive over Trent Grisham's head in center field. Iván Herrera followed with another booming run-scoring double to center.

"I think there was a lot of good," Warren said. "Obviously, I could've made a different pitch decision there to Wetherholt, possibly get out of that inning unscathed. It is what it is. I try to get as many outs as possible and keep us in the game. Overall, I think it was solid."

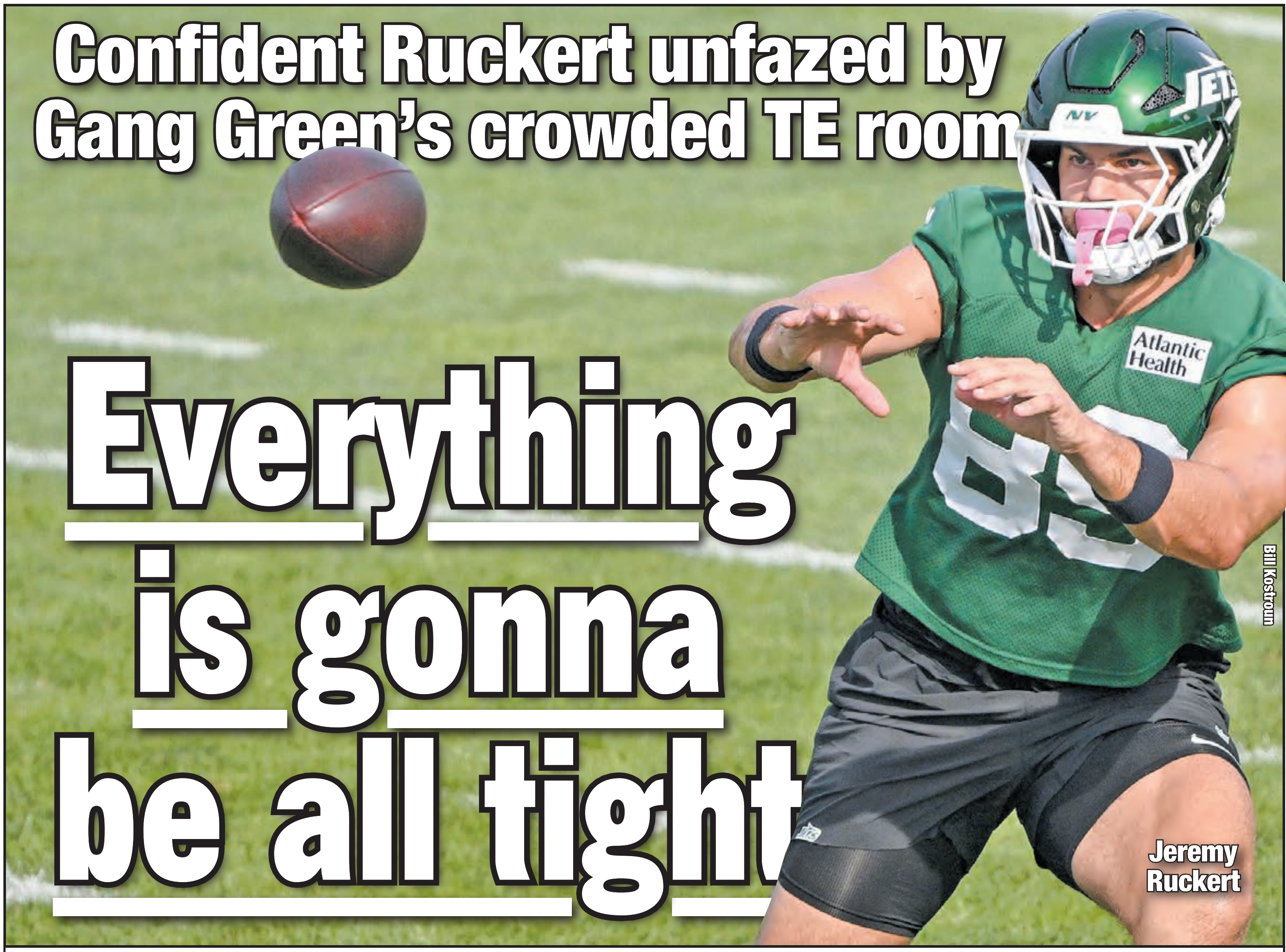
Warren was coming off a shaky July, in which he pitched to a 5.47 ERA. But he did close it out well, tossing 6 $^2/_3$ innings of shutout ball against the Cubs.

Weathers, meanwhile, has allowed just one earned run over his past 20 $^1/_3$ innings. He is getting stronger as the year gets deeper. Warren cannot say the same thing.

Rodón is getting closer to returning. The left-hander last appeared for the Yankees on June 28 and has been dealing with left elbow inflammation. He is scheduled to begin a rehabilitation assignment Saturday with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Confident Ruckert unfazed by Gang Green's crowded TE room

Everything is gonna be all tight



Jeremy Ruckert

Bill Kostroun

YOU WOULDN'T blame Jeremy Ruckert if he wanted to purge the past two Aprils from his memory.

On April 25 of last year, the Jets drafted Mason Taylor, a talented tight end out of LSU, with the 42nd overall pick in the second round.

This past April, the Jets drafted dynamic Oregon tight end Kenyon Sadiq with the 16th overall pick in the first round.

Where would that leave Ruckert, who was drafted in the third round of the 2022 draft, with the team using high picks in the past two drafts to pick players at his position?

"I really wasn't paying too much attention to it," Ruckert insisted this week when asked of his reaction to the past two drafts. "I'm confident in myself, confident I'm here for a reason, and once we start rolling and playing, we're going to show we can all be on the field at the same time. So, as far as a reaction on draft night, I didn't really have much of one."

Ruckert said he had "friends and family check in to see how I'm doing," and he insisted he was unfazed.

"I just got extended last year," he said of his new contract. "I'm excited to be here, I really rock with A.G. [head coach Aaron Glenn], I rock with everything going on, and I'm confident in myself and the direction we're going."

Only the confident survive in professional sports, particularly in the rough, cutthroat world of the NFL, where everyone is replaceable — especially based on age.

Ruckert stands behind the confidence he has in his abilities — even though those are far less dynamic than the two new kids in town.

If you look solely at his career NFL numbers by comparison to the college numbers Taylor and Sadiq produced, it would be easy to assume that Ruckert would be expendable.

Mark Cannizzaro

Ruckert has 58 career receptions for 443 yards and one touchdown — modest numbers for four seasons in the league, spanning 57 games played and 30 starts.

Sadiq, meanwhile, caught 80 passes in college for 892 yards and 11 touchdowns, with 51 of those for 560 yards and eight TDs coming last season.

Taylor caught 129 passes for 1,308 yards and six TDs in his college career.

Ideally, one of those two younger pass catchers would have single-season numbers in 2026 that at least equal Ruckert's career stats.

Ruckert, though, is by far the best blocker among the three, with Sadiq and Taylor more pass-catching tight ends. That's Ruckert's value, and it's why he was signed to a two-year, $10 million contract extension last year that included a $3 million signing bonus and $4.97 million in guaranteed money.

"I'm just super confident in myself," Ruckert said. "Whatever they ask me to do, I have the confidence I can do it at a high level, no matter what aspect of the position. I believe in myself, and at the end of the day, the team's getting better and I'm excited about that.

"Being here the longest in the room, I take that with pride, and whoever they bring in, I'm going to try to lead them, play alongside them, and continue to push them to be better, too."

If you listen to Glenn, he sounds as high on Ruckert as he is about the two younger tight ends.

"Man, Ruckert can do it all," Glenn said earlier this week. "He's the jack-of-all-trades, but he can master those, though. He can play Y [traditional in-line blocker], he can play F [a flex receiver on the move], he can split out. He's good as far as the movements are concerned. He's the one guy that ties it all together. He's the one guy in that room, as far as leadership, that's been there and done that.

"[In] that room, the skill sets are so different, and that's what you like about it. But 'Ruck' is a guy that I feel like he can do it all within that [room]."

When asked about the stacked tight ends room, Ruckert didn't flinch.

"I love it, man," he said. "I wouldn't call it a competition so much as all of us trying to make each other better. Our mission is to show each other that no matter what Frank [Reich, offensive coordinator] calls, we can all play different spots."

Ruckert said he sees his fit in the tight ends room as "bringing leadership, bringing physicality, letting the guys know what it really takes to get into the trenches in the NFL."

"At the end of the day, being the guy who's been here — going on Year 5 — I've got to show them the experiences I've had on and off the field in this organization, get us ready to roll, and try to be the group the team relies on and trusts."

Ruckert's confidence in himself may be his superpower, and it has the trust of the head coach, who's the most important person in the room.

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Wan'Dale: New home a perfect Tenn.

By BRIAN COSTELLO

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — It doesn't take long for Wan'Dale Robinson to point out the biggest difference between playing in New York and playing in Tennessee.

"There's not as much traffic," Robinson said this week.

It's hard to argue with that. That is just one of the benefits for Robinson, who signed with the Titans in March after four years with the Giants. Robinson said there were many reasons he chose the Titans. Undoubtedly, the four-year, $78 million contract the Titans gave him was near the top of the list. He is also reunited with former Giants coach Brian Daboll, who is now the Titans offensive coordinator.

"Just a little bit of everything, just the lifestyle," Robinson told The Post about going to Tennessee. "Being from this area [raised in Kentucky] and my family can come watch every game at home, and it's only about three hours away. You know, just the living situation. I definitely love New York, but I don't think it's a place that I would want to live for the rest of my life. Nashville just seems like a place that I would really like to live and have a long life here. So, everything was just kind of perfect. Perfect marriage, even with football, was like this is a young team and looks like that we're in ascension to make some things happen. I want to be a part of that."

Robinson had a breakout season last year with 92 receptions for 1,014 yards and four touchdowns. It came at a good time, with Robinson scheduled to hit free agency. The Giants had interest in retaining Robinson, but with limited cap space they could not match what the Titans were offering.

"Early on, I definitely thought I would end up back in New York," Robinson said. "I didn't really start thinking that it wasn't going to happen until we started getting close to that day of free agency starting. And, I just realized that I really couldn't pass up this opportunity here."

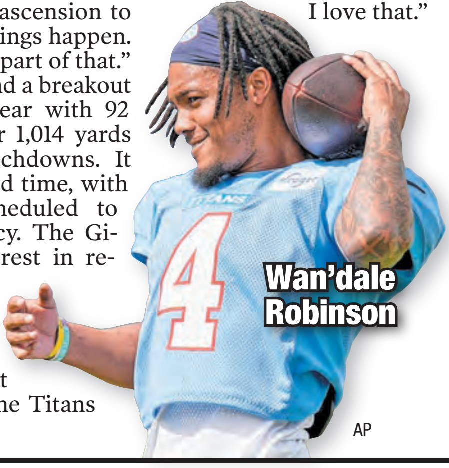
With Daboll calling the offense, Robinson knew exactly how he would fit in as their slot receiver.

"It's like we never left each other," he said of Daboll. "He definitely did some reflecting and I know he's in a great place right now. You can see it out there whenever he's calling plays and coaching. This feels like himself again, and it just feels great."

Robinson is helping his new teammates understand Daboll's offense and the terminology.

One of those players is quarterback Cam Ward, who is entering his second season. Ward said recently that he and Robinson have gotten so close that he gave Robinson a key to his house.

"That's my guy," Robinson said. "Look, pretty much together every day, even outside of football. I just feel like we grow and grow more and more and just continue to grow out there on the field just talking to each other. He doesn't sugarcoat anything. He's going to tell you how it is and I love that."



Wan'dale Robinson

AP

WILLING & DABOLL

YES HE CAM! Brian Daboll, fired as the Giants head coach 10 weeks into last season, is now the Titans offensive coordinator and ready to get the most out of second-year quarterback Cam Ward. AP (2)

By BRIAN COSTELLO

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — As Brian Daboll stands at a podium answering reporters' questions, Robert Saleh walks by and shouts, "We love you, Daboll."

"Saleh is going to work out," Daboll says, cracking a smile. "He asks me if I want to come, and I tell him to do two for me."

Their physiques are not the only reason Saleh and Daboll are an unlikely pair now working for the Titans. Saleh is the head coach and Daboll is his offensive coordinator, something that would have been tough to process just two years ago when the two were facing off in a joint practice as the Jets head coach and Giants head coach, respectively.

Saleh got fired by the Jets five games into the 2024 season. The Giants fired Daboll after 10 games last season.

When Saleh was hired by Tennessee in January, he turned to his old New York colleague to run his offense.

"Daboll could argue that, god, if he could have just got the defense right and I can argue if I could have just got the offense right," Saleh said of their failed tenures in New York. "We might as well lock arms. Dabes has been great, awesome teammate."

Daboll is enjoying a new chapter in his football journey, one that has included Super Bowls with Bill Belichick and the Patriots, a national championship with Nick Saban and Alabama, and mentoring Josh Allen in Buffalo. Now, he's charged with getting the most out of Titans quarterback Cam Ward, the No. 1 overall pick in 2025, and helping Saleh turn around a Titans franchise that has not made the playoffs since 2021.

Daboll said he and Saleh first got to know one another at the league meetings after he took the Giants job.

"We really met when we were both head coaches in New York, and, you know, his first head coach job, my first head coaching job," Daboll told The Post in an interview in his office this week. "So, you kind of lean on one another. And that's how I met him.

"We developed a relationship. And then he got this job, and he talked to me about it, and, [I was] fortunate enough that he wanted to bring me on. It's been a good experience. You know, he comes from a different system, different mentors, than I do. I just think that it's been a cool experience to be around him."

Daboll was not interested in revisiting his time with the Giants. He began with a 9-7-1 season and a playoff win in 2022, but he could never recapture that success and finished with a 20-40-1 record.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity," Daboll said of his time with the Giants. "At the end of the day, we didn't get the job done. That falls on the head coach."

In his last year with the Giants, the team was searching for a quarterback and he did extensive work on Ward, who was the top quarterback in the 2025 draft out of Miami. It was known that Daboll and the Giants were high on Ward, but the Titans drafted him No. 1 overall, so the Giants never had a shot at him and took Jaxson Dart later in the first round.

Now, Daboll's job is to try to get Ward's career on track after a difficult rookie season.

"He's a second-year player that had a tough first season, whether it's not exactly how he wanted to go for himself but more importantly the team," Daboll said. "That's always a struggle, a struggle for anybody, myself included. So to be able to share some experiences that I've had along, I think this is 26 or 27 years in the league. I've won a lot of games, have lost a lot of games.

> **I've learned that there's a lot of ups and downs in this business. I want to continue to get better, continue to learn from mistakes, grow, enjoy it, enjoy being around our guys.**
>
> — *Brian Daboll*

Ex-Giants head coach excited to team with Saleh, get the most out of Titans and their young QB

I've done a lot of things I'm proud of, have done a lot of things that I wish I could have been better at. But I think that perspective for a young player is good. And then our relationship is very strong. We kind of hit it off in the draft process, and it's kind of rolled right in here."

Daboll will return to MetLife Stadium in Week 3 to face the Giants. He said he has not given any thought to how he'll feel that day.

"You just have tunnel vision. I haven't even thought about it," Daboll said. He then turned to a big white board behind him and pointed to an area that had the days of the week listed. He pointed to Tuesday afternoon. "I'm actually, like, trying to figure out what we're doing right here and just get through the day. I haven't thought about it."

Saleh has gotten a second shot at being a head coach in Tennessee. Daboll interviewed for the Bills job in January, but Buffalo hired Joe Brady. Does Daboll want to be a head coach again?

"That's a great question. I just don't think about it right now," Daboll said. "What I focus on is how can I help Saleh in this organization try to achieve the things that everybody wants to achieve? Yeah. And I've learned that there's a lot of ups and downs in this business. I want to continue to get better, continue to learn from mistakes, grow, enjoy it, enjoy being around our guys, enjoy being around Cam. I learned a long time ago to try to do the best job you can in the role that you're in, and then whatever comes to that, comes from that. But if you're not doing a good job with the role that you're in, then usually other things don't happen. So that's where my focus is."

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Troubled Diggs joins Wash. on $12M deal

By GRACE McCARRON

Stefon Diggs has found his new home.

The two-time All-Pro wide receiver agreed to a deal with the Commanders, according to multiple reports.

The deal is for one year and up to $12 million for the 32-year-old, who was the top wide receiver left in free agency with training camps already starting.

The signing gives Washington quarterback Jayden Daniels a new weapon but does come with risks.

Diggs has seen legal troubles in recent years. He's been embroiled in a battle with Christopher Blake Griffith, who accused Diggs of drugging and sexually assaulting him in 2023.

Diggs was also recently acquitted of assault charges in a separate case involving his former personal chef. Diggs spent the bulk of his career with the Vikings and Bills before single-season stints with the Texans and Patriots.

Diggs also had a highly publicized breakup with rapper Cardi B. The two share a son born in November 2025.

It will be a homecoming for Diggs, who was born in Gaithersburg, Md., and was raised outside of the D.C. metro area.

Diggs will pair with Terry McLaurin in Washington following a 1,000-yard season with the Patriots.

New England released Diggs in March, and head coach Mike Vrabel confirmed the team was not exploring a reunion with the veteran.

The Patriots instead traded for A.J. Brown in the offseason to give Drake Maye a new No. 1 receiver.

"I don't think that that's something that, you know, that we are exploring, but I would never say no," Vrabel said.

Diggs was a critical piece of New England's run to Super Bowl 60.

He led the Patriots with 85 receptions and 1,013 receiving yards last season and became the Patriots' first 1,000-yard receiver since Julian Edelman in 2019.

STEFON DIGGS

CATCHING FIRE

Beckham making splash so far in Big Blue return

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — An excited 11-year-old girl hung a sign over the fence at training camp Wednesday asking for a Giants football as her only birthday present.

Charlie from Virginia got that wish fulfilled plus the gift that seemingly every other Giants fan in the crowd wants: Odell Beckham Jr.'s attention and autograph as the team went through warmups.

There's a different, louder buzz energizing the practice fields at The Greenbrier resort when Beckham makes a play than when most others do. And Wednesday's practice — his second straight primarily running with the starters — was filled with Beckham highlights, from a juggling catch in a one-on-one matchup against Jevon Holland to a weaving catch-and-run to a deep grab down the sideline.

"Everybody likes to talk about, 'Is he going to be this, that?' " Beckham said. "And I'm like, 'LeBron James used to take off before the free-throw line, and now he's taking off with his foot right in front of it. He's got a different game, but he's still playing at a high level.' I believe that I can play at a high level."

Beckham already has proven that his Giants reunion isn't just about soaking in nostalgia. He was making plays with a body that looked spryer, for a third straight day in pads and during the longest practice of camp, than when he last played for the 2024 Dolphins.

"Yesterday's touchdown doesn't win you today's game," Beckham said. "I feel like I came out [Tuesday] and I was like, 'I want to have my best day,' and I feel like I had a good day. Some things to work on, and I was like, 'I want to have an even better day [Wednesday].' "

Head coach John Harbaugh called on Beckham to deliver Tuesday's daily "Wise Words" during a morning team meeting.

"He's working hard and he got some balls that came his way and he made some great plays," Harbaugh said. "He addressed the team, and he did a great job with that. So, maybe that was the football gods right there. You never know."

Beckham began training camp with the second-team receivers, gaining separation on routes but not drawing targets. It was the kind of spot in which his younger self would throw up a hand to make a frustrated point, but he now quietly runs back for the next rep like anyone else humbled by trying to make the cut.

"I kind of like it," Beckham said. "My boy texted me, he's like, 'This is where you thrive.' When I have pressure, I live for it. If we were just messing around, playing H-O-R-S-E, if we're not playing for $100, I might lose. But you put the $100 on there, and then, hypothetically … I want to step up to the big of the moment. I definitely put pressure on myself to make plays. I'm all for competition. I've always been like that. I feel like I rise to the occasion."

Beckham pointed out that he had 35 catches for 565 yards on 465 offensive snaps under Harbaugh with the 2023 Ravens. If he doubled his workload and stats with more opportunities — wishful thinking, perhaps — then no one would be questioning what he has left in the tank.

"I feel like I'm getting better with repetition," Beckham said. "Unfortunately I'm one of those people who has to touch the stove to know that it's hot and to not touch it again, so I learn from a mistake and it's like, 'All right, that's something that I corrected.' "

Giants tight end Isaiah Likely was Beckham's teammate in 2023.

"He's looked like O.," Likely said. "Just seeing him really be able to understand the position he's in. When the young guys ask him how he did it the right way when he was at the top of the top, prime Odell. And then obviously, the dark-days Odell, which he'll tell you as well. And really just how he stayed the course and just honed in and understanding that when he's out here, he's giving you the best version of himself."

Beckham said the crowd support eight hours from home is giving him "a lot of juice." But he's not back with the Giants — his self-drawn counterpart James just spurned a second Cavaliers reunion to join the 76ers — for them or for his doubters.

"If this comes off selfish, sorry, but this is for me," Beckham said. "This is to prove to myself. It's never really been to prove it to others, but it's always fun when you can prove it to others. But this is for me, this is for my son. In our household, we never give up, you know what I'm saying? No matter what it is, you're going to finish what you started."

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After rough finish Tue. then bad start Wed., Dart ends

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

GIANTS NOTES

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Jaxson Dart went from reeling to dealing.

After finishing Tuesday's practice on a low note with a John Harbaugh-criticized taunting penalty for flipping the ball at cornerback Greg Newsome II, Dart threw two interceptions against the second-team defense early in Wednesday's practice before salvaging his day with three touchdown passes in a red zone period.

"The football response absolutely was there," Harbaugh said. "Yeah, he stepped up. A lot of third-down stuff we did. Fourth-down stuff, fourth down in the red zone to win the game, things like that. Yeah, he had a heck of a practice. It was impressive."

Harbaugh singled out Dart in the pre-practice meeting for foolishly throwing the ball at Newsome's face after a touchdown run to end Tuesday's practice. Dart ran for two more scores Wednesday and kept his celebrations in check.

"That's an opportunity for coaching points," Harbaugh said. "So, we went over the sequence, and everybody knows. He was great about it. He's great about accepting responsibility, and he's a very accountable guy. I feel like all the guys are."

Harbaugh said he switched from starters-versus-starters in 11-on-11 drills to starters-versus-second-teamers for reasons other than to create a confidence boost. It allows one coordinator to ask for a specific scripted call from the other side and set up longer competitive periods.

Newsome said he harbored no hard feelings toward Dart.

TRAINING DAY

OH BOY, O-LINE!

In one-on-one reps, LT **Andrew Thomas** kept inside position as Abdul Carter tried to beat him and instead slipped. Then he pushed Arvell Reese to the outside to even the score from the other day. Then Thomas and LG **Jon Runyan** stonewalled a two-man rush involving Reese. When Thomas committed a false start in 11-on-11, he was pulled for a play. No one is above the law.

BURNED UNIT

The starting defense allowed touchdown passes to the second-team offense on three straight plays from inside the 10-yard line. S **Tyler Nubin**, who gave up a deep catch to WR Xavier Gipson and a short catch to TE Isaiah Likely in one-on-ones, had his back turned as Jameis Winston fired a pass over his shoulder to WR JuJu Smith-Schuster for a touchdown.

CAUGHT MY EYE

Former third-round pick WR **Jalin Hyatt**, who is on the outside of the roster bubble, worked as a punt gunner — a change from years past when he was a returner during special teams periods — and had a great rep in which he used his speed to get wide and down the field to draw a penalty. He also caught a TD pass from Winston.

INJURY REPORT

CB **Dru Phillips** appeared to injure his lower right leg on Winston's third straight touchdown pass, but the Giants are hopeful it was cramping. He was down for a minute, hobbled to the sideline, jogged under the trainer's eye then stayed on the sideline for the rest of practice. OLB **Brian Burns**, WR **Malachi Fields** and S **Beau Brade** were dealing with minor injuries, per John Harbaugh. *— Ryan Dunleavy*

HOW ABOUT THAT?! Not much was expected when veteran Odell Beckham Jr. was signed by the Giants as a potential depth piece. But he has surprised at camp and has had two straight solid practices with the first-team offense.

day on high note

➤ The Giants placed DT **Roy Robertson-Harris** (torn Achilles) on season-ending injured reserve. There was initial hope that he could return. WR **Beaux Collins** was waived/injured after a disappointing start to camp. The roster spots were filled by DBs **D.J. James** and **David Long Jr**.

➤ WR **Dalen Cambre**, who played 16 offensive snaps and 89 special-teams snaps in seven games for the Giants as an undrafted rookie last season, is "making a move" with a bunch of highlight catches.

Corey Sipkin (2)

No yelling needed at tough Camp Harbaugh

Paul Schwartz

NOT A yeller.

That is one way to describe John Harbaugh on the field as he navigates through his first Giants training camp.

He is right there, of course, a visible presence at the Sports Performance Center at The Greenbrier resort. Seen, to be sure. Heard? Yes, but not because he is shouting or ranting or even raising his voice.

What Harbaugh has shown thus far — the Giants on Wednesday completed practice No. 7 of the 10 scheduled in West Virginia — is that he in every way is a CEO head coach. As such, his leanings are not to offense or defense. He is a former special teams coordinator, and that is certainly his wheelhouse, but more than anything his expertise is all encompassing.

You do not see him sprinting along the sideline to celebrate anything. When mistakes are made, he is not barking. He moves around the field, and when there is something that catches his attention he will make his point, succinctly but without high-decibel ferocity. He is, after all, the guy in charge. He does not scream to get his point across.

"He doesn't have to," wide receiver Calvin Austin III told The Post on Wednesday.

Why not?

"The message is getting his point across by how he walks in the team meeting," said Austin, who spent his first three NFL seasons with the Steelers, playing for another non-shouter, Mike Tomlin. "It's no question about how we should practice, no question about how we should finish, there's no question about how we should compete, there's no question about how we should help our brother."

Tom Coughlin could be a yeller, and he won two Super Bowls.

Harbaugh mixes easily with players before practice and again afterward, often engaging in real conversation, not merely "how ya doing?" flybys. His sessions are heavy at the start on individual drills and even heavier on situational work — the stuff, he says, that actually makes the difference in winning and losing in real games.

Every afternoon, Harbaugh opens up his media session with some sort of greeting: "Appreciate you being here." "Good to see everybody." "Hope you enjoyed" the practice that just concluded. He noted the "beautiful setting" in the Allegheny Mountains and the ideal weather early in camp.

Day 5 included a downpour for nearly an hour. Harbaugh recounted how Tom Reed, his college coach at Miami of Ohio, "used to always tell us every single day — rain, sleet, snow, hot — it's a great day for football. Every day."

That is, generally, Harbaugh's take. Every day is a great day.

When it is not so great on the field, Harbaugh keeps the analysis to himself. He does not criticize players to the media. A poor job by the offense? He credits the defense. That red zone interception thrown by Jaxson Dart, with the offense already in field goal range to send the game into overtime?

"Obviously it's not a circumstance you want to throw an interception," Harbaugh said, before — publicly — letting Dart off the hook.

"You put the quarterback in a tough spot out here," he said. "Do you want him pushing the envelope? Or are you going to criticize him for throwing a pick in training camp? I mean, it's training camp."

Even after a 14-penalty eyesore on Day 5, Harbaugh pointed to the rain and the first day in full pads as reasons for the sloppiness.

"So, it's not really unexpected, but we'll be working on it," he said.

He can be expansive and prefers specific topics versus overarching themes. He actually understands the need for content and will do his best to provide it. He said "that's a great question" to an inquiry about why he has only one punter in camp. He is also patient, sometimes remarkably so, when it comes to additional interviews after the large group session has concluded. There is an unrushed nature to Harbaugh even though every minute is accounted for.

He is a stickler. The first few days, he mentioned more than once that the officials working practice — local college and high school refs — were not altogether up on the NFL way of calling the action.

"I just was reminding them that you don't blow it dead when the defense is in the neutral zone," Harbaugh said after the very first practice, while adding "these guys were great today."

Nothing gets by him. The push-ups by defensive players after penalties or other failings are coordinator Dennard Wilson's idea. Harbaugh approves of the "punishment" but not the execution.

"You know the thing that bothers me about their push-ups?" he asked, then answered.

"They don't go all the way up. They kind of do this little, short pushup thing."

The reputation for hard, extended practices is warranted. The Giants are on the field for as long as allowed under the collective bargaining agreement.

"Man it's tough, gritty, we're gonna work," cornerback Greg Newsome II said. "There's no off days for us, in terms of not competing. He's gonna make sure we compete, we're always doing situational football, things like that. He's a great coach."

He is trying to coach greatness into the Giants, one (great) day at a time.

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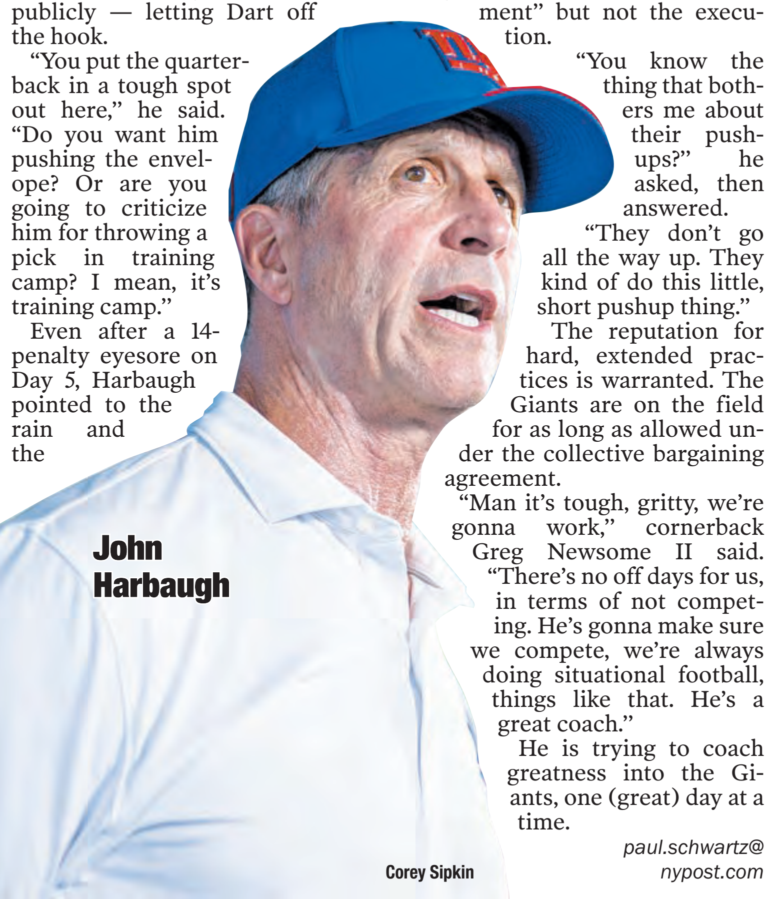


John Harbaugh

Corey Sipkin

Polanco takes swing at rebound

By MIKE PUMA

CLEVELAND — Jorge Polanco is trying to swing his way back to productivity.

The veteran DH took about 300 swings Wednesday before the Mets faced the Guardians at Progressive Field, according to Andy Green, leaving the interim manager cautiously optimistic that success would follow.

Polanco delivered with a 2-for-4 performance that included his second homer of the season (and first since April). The third-inning blast snapped his 0-for-26 skid.

METS NOTES

"After putting a lot of work in it feels great," Polanco said following the 6-5 victory in 10 innings.

Polanco began the night with a paltry .388 OPS as the poster child of president of operations David Stearns' failed offseason overhaul.

"Sometimes the sweat equity gets you rolling again," Green said of Polanco's workout. "There's a ton of ability in him. There's a long track record. If you're out there watching him there's a good swing. He's got a lot of things going for him."

Polanco, who arrived on a two-year contract worth $40 million, has dealt with Achilles and wrist injuries that have limited him to 30 games this season.

"Any time you have an injury to a lower extremity or even a hand it can impact the swing whether you are feeling pain or not," Green said. "He feels healthy."

➤ **Sammy Stafura**, acquired by the Mets in a trade Monday, was named the South Atlantic League (High-A) Player of the Month for July. The shortstop led the league in homers (14), RBIs (35), slugging percentage (.926) and OPS (1.305) among other offensive categories. The Mets traded **Luke Weaver** to the Pirates for the 21-year-old Stafura.

➤ **Jefry Yan** became the seventh Mets player to make his major league debut this season — joining **Nate Lavender**, **Carson Benge**, **A.J. Ewing**, **Nick Morabito**, **Matt Seelinger** and **Zac Thornton**.

➤ **Brett Baty**, whose previous outfield appearances this season have been in right field, got the start in left Wednesday. Green indicated such an alignment was a product of wanting to keep Benge in right field.

Yan displays high-flying celebrations in debut as Amazin's rally to win

JUMP RIGHT IN

By MIKE PUMA

METS	6	10 innings Box., P. 40
GUARDIANS	5	

CLEVELAND — Jefry Yan announced his arrival to the major leagues Wednesday night with a dance party.

A leap. A split. A ground slap.

Three times in the sixth inning the rookie reliever celebrated — twice for strikeouts and once for recording the final out with the bases loaded. He departed to boos at Progressive Field.

"I was really excited, but I was also a little nervous," Yan said through an interpreter after the Mets beat the Guardians 6-5 in 10 innings. "I wanted to get in and out of there right away, but got into a little trouble. I was able to dig deep and get out of that inning."

The Mets received what they needed not only from Yan but also from others in their reconstructed bullpen following the trade deadline — closer Devin Williams was also unavailable due to what interim manager Andy Green termed arm fatigue.

Bo Bichette's RBI single in the 10th brought in the go-ahead run before Daniel Duarte got the final three outs with the automatic runner left stranded.

The victory was the second straight for the Mets, who received three homers for a second straight night: Brett Baty, Jorge Polanco and Carson Benge all went deep.

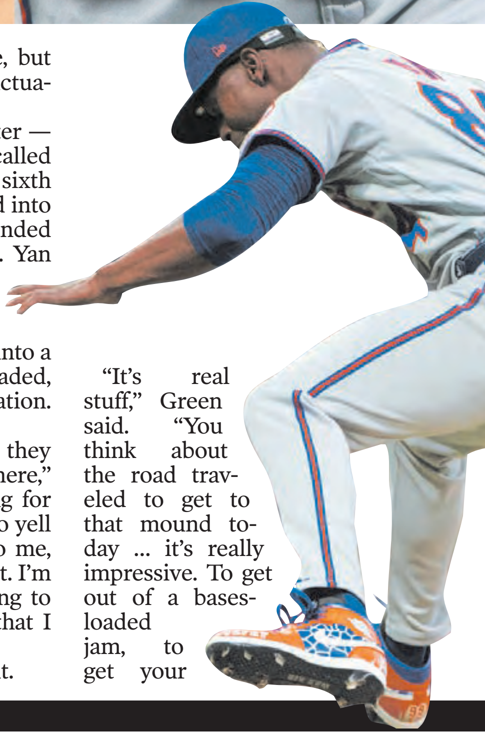
Yan, who peaked at 101 mph, added the most sizzle. The 29-year-old lefty, who spent four years removed from affiliated baseball after his release from the Angels organization in 2016, was known in the minor leagues for his high strikeout rate, but also his demonstrative punctuation after getting Strike 3.

It took Yan only one batter — Angel Martínez took a called third strike leading off the sixth — to show it off. He leaped into the air with a split and pounded the ground with his palm. Yan celebrated again, after striking out Chase DeLauter. His final act was getting Jo Adell to ground into a force-out with the bases loaded, prompting another celebration. Boos followed.

"I don't care about that, they can do what they want there," Yan said. "They are paying for their tickets. If they want to yell at me, if they want to boo me, they can do what they want. I'm in my zone, and I am going to enjoy my game any way that I want to."

Green appreciated all of it.

"It's real stuff," Green said. "You think about the road traveled to get to that mound today ... it's really impressive. To get out of a bases-loaded jam, to get your



YAN THEN SOME! Mets reliever Jefry Yan made his big league debut Wednesday, displaying his over-the-top celebration when recording a strikeout. He gave up two hits but no runs in one inning in the 6-5 victory in 10 innings over the Guardians. Imagn Images; AP

ON DECK: at Guardians

Thursday, 1:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Nolan McLean

2026 stats: 7-7, 3.29 ERA

Career vs. CLE: First appearance

Last start: July 30, vs. MIA; 6.1 IP, 6 H, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

33%	21%	15%
Sinker	4-seamer	Sweeper

LHP Foster Griffin

2026 stats: 12-3, 3.06 ERA

Career vs. NYM: 1-0, 9.00 ERA

Last start: Fri., at ATL; 5.1 IP, 9 H, 6 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

33%	16%	14%
Cutter	4-seamer	Sweeper

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: at Pirates, 6:40 p.m., PIX11, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

SATURDAY: at Pirates, 6:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

- **Juan Soto** has not begun baseball activities, according to interim manager Andy Green, as he receives treatment for a left calf strain. Soto is expected to miss action into September.

first punch-out, it's excited for him. He deserves that."

Christian Scott needed 96 pitches to get through five innings in which he allowed three earned runs on six hits and two walks with seven strikeouts. It followed Scott's longest start of the season, six innings against the Braves in the nightcap of a doubleheader last week.

Back-to-back homers from Baty and Polanco in the third inning gave the Mets a 2-0 lead. Baty's homer was his seventh of the season and fourth since July 10. The disappointing Polanco had not homered since April 11 — he returned to the lineup in early July after missing nearly three months with Achilles and wrist injuries.

Jared Young's RBI double in the fourth gave the Mets a 3-0 lead. The run was unearned following Angel Genao's double error on Benge's grounder.

A.J. Ewing got fooled on a drive to center in the fourth that became a double for Nathaniel Lowe, putting runners on second and third after Adell's leadoff walk. Travis Bazzana stroked an RBI single to slice the Mets lead to 3-1, but Scott escaped the inning by getting the next two outs.

Scott allowed two runs in the fifth after loading the bases on two singles and a walk with nobody out. Lowe's two-run single tied it 3-3.

Benge homered in the sixth to give the Mets a 4-3 lead. It was the second straight game with a blast for the rookie Benge, whose 13 homers are the most among active Mets players. Juan Soto, who is on the injured list, leads the team with 21 homers this season.

Patrick Bailey and Genao each delivered an RBI single in the seventh to give the Guardians a 5-4 lead following Young's fielding error.

The Mets loaded the bases in the ninth with two outs before Ewing's grounder was misplayed by Brayan Rocchio, allowing the tying run to score.

Other than the two unearned runs the Guardians scored in the seventh with Dedniel Núñez on the mound, the Mets bullpen was spotless.

"There's a lot of guys trying to show they belong and pitching really well," Green said.

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Robert to remain on center stage

By MIKE PUMA

CLEVELAND — Luis Robert Jr. had a good idea heading into Monday's trade deadline that his Mets tenure would continue.

The veteran outfielder heard from his representatives last week that he should prepare for a possible trade, but if his final stretch of games before the deadline was any kind of showcase, Robert's performance screamed that teams should avoid him.

"After the week I had at home, I knew it would be difficult to make a trade there," Robert said through an interpreter before the Mets faced the Guardians on Wednesday. "Obviously there is always a possibility, but I thought it would be difficult to pull off a trade at that point."

It was a homestand in which Robert — who returned July 20 from an extended stay on the injured list — went 5-for-27 (.185) and saw his disappointing OPS drop from .642 to .610. Even so, Mets officials, according to sources, had hopes of sending him elsewhere.

Instead, the team decided against taking a minimal return for the 29-year-old Robert, who is owed $8 million for the rest of this season. His contract holds a club option for next season worth $20 million. The Mets acquired Robert from the White Sox in January for Luisangel Acuña and Truman Pauley.

It leaves Robert as the team's primary center fielder for now (he was on the bench Wednesday night) displacing rookie A.J. Ewing, who has excelled in center, to left field. That structure, according to interim manager Andy Green, gives the Mets their best chance to win.

"[Robert] hasn't ever played left field in professional baseball, so we have had conversations, and I want to give him some time to get reps out there before you stick him in a spot he's never been," Green said. "Once we're able to do that, we'll expand A.J.'s center-field reps.

"It's not hurting A.J. to play the corners and play them really well. If you are looking at the alignment of the way you are probably best suited to win a baseball game, A.J. playing a corner that he plays incredibly well and Luis Robert Jr. playing a plus center field is a really good alignment."

AP

Luis Robert Jr.

Nevertheless, Green conceded that continuing to build up Ewing's center field experience is important toward the team's future.

"We'll balance those two things going forward," Green said. "I think in the short term, though, on this road trip you have to give somebody a chance to take some reps in a position before you stick them there."

Ewing got the start Wednesday, not getting much fielding action in center while going 1-for-5 form the plate in the Mets' 6-5, 10-inning win at over the Guardians. Robert pinch-hit in the ninth, striking out, then played center in the 10th with Ewing moving to left.

Robert missed nearly two months on the IL with lumbar spine disc herniation. That absence continued a pattern the physically gifted outfielder has shown in recent seasons of missing games due to injuries.

"We had high expectations for what I could do," Robert said. "I worked extremely hard to stay healthy. The trainers work extremely hard to keep me healthy, but I just got hurt and missed a ton of time. It's disappointing."

Is Robert disappointed he didn't get a chance to potentially help a playoff contender?

"Every player likes to be competing," he said. "I would love to play in the playoffs, but the most important thing right now is that I'm here, and then I just want to finish strong, because that will be more important than anything."

Robert will spend these final 47 games of a lost season trying to show he can contribute. He was asked if he could envision the Mets picking up his option for next season.

"There's always a chance that they could pick it up," Robert said. "It's their decision, but I also have to go out there and do my part."

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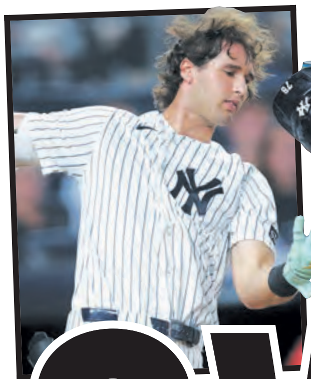

CARD’ TO SWALLOW

Bombers bats muster four hits, go 0-for-10 with RISP in ‘L’ to St. Louis

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

CARDINALS	**3**	**Boxscore Page 40**
YANKEES	**1**	

This is a different Yankees lineup and look, with George Lombard Jr. flourishing early, Spencer Jones given a runway and Luis García Jr. and Heliot Ramos working themselves into the mix with their new club.

And yet this is the same Yankees problem: a lineup lacking a pulse without the heart of the team.

Hours after Aaron Judge declared he would return at some point this season, the batting order he left behind played as if it wanted to convey to the captain that he better hurry up.

A problem that recently has been partially disguised by excellent pitching and Lombard bursting on the scene had nowhere to hide Wednesday, when the Yankees were silenced 3-1 by the Cardinals in a slog of a game marked by frequent pauses of play and virtually no excitement while the home team was at bat.

The 37,425 on hand in The Bronx waited through a 68-minute rain delay before the game started, then groaned as Yankee Stadium lights continually turned off in the early innings, then ran for cover during a brief sixth-inning downpour, then checked their phones as a Cardinals pitcher slipped on a slick mound in the seventh, prompting the grounds crew to hustle over and rake the dirt.

The few left by the end were not rewarded for their patience as the Yankees (64-51) dropped the series, fell 4 ½ games back of the Rays and slipped to a single game clear of the Red Sox for the top wild-card spot.

UP NEXT

vs. Braves

FRIDAY: 4:05 p.m.
SATURDAY: 12:05 p.m.
SUNDAY: 10:35 a.m.

“I thought [Cardinals starter Andre] Pallante was good, but we gotta get it done,” manager Aaron Boone said after his group finished with four hits, none of which arrived with runners in scoring position (0-for-10), and looked as if most of its at-bats came with the lights out. “We got to come through in those situations.”

The Yankees have scored more than five runs in four of their past 43 games, a startling drought regardless of personnel, spanning a stretch in which they are averaging 3.3 runs per game. The entire stretch has come without Judge, whose fractured rib has threatened to derail the team’s season, though Wednesday he began some light activities.

Hollow bats give the pitching staff and defense little margin for error, and Will Warren and arguably Trent Grisham in center field were not perfect.

Warren rolled through four innings before encountering trouble in the game-deciding fifth. With runners on the corners and two outs, young standout JJ Wetherholt put a good swing on a sweeper — “Hindsight, probably throw a different pitch,” Warren bemoaned — that became a high drive to center field.

“Off the bat I thought I had a pretty good chance at it,” Grisham said. “As I was going back, it just kind of kept going.”

Grisham got turned around on the play, then decided to play the ball off the wall. The ball did not hit the wall, short-hopping it and going for a two-run double, which was followed by another double for the only three runs St. Louis would need.

The Yankees had many opportunities in the middle and late innings and wasted them. There was an inning-ending double play from Austin Wells; a near breakthrough in which three walks and a hit by pitch scored one run before Ryan McMahon struck out with the bases loaded; García stranding two with a groundout; and an otherwise exuberant Lombard swinging through Ryne Stanek heat with two runners on board.

Lombard (1-for-4 with a few standout defensive plays again) continues to entertain and inspire hope, but when virtually anyone else was at the plate, the Yankees looked hopeless.

The night’s leadoff hitter, Grisham (0-for-5), is 8-for-71 (.113) in his past 20 games.

Spencer Jones (0-for-4), who had shown enough to keep his big league spot while Jasson Domínguez was optioned, has gone 0-for-15 in his past four games.

Chisholm (0-for-2 with two walks) is 1-for-17 in his past five games.

Asked what was missing in the threats that did not quite become rallies, Grisham summed it up well: “Hits.”

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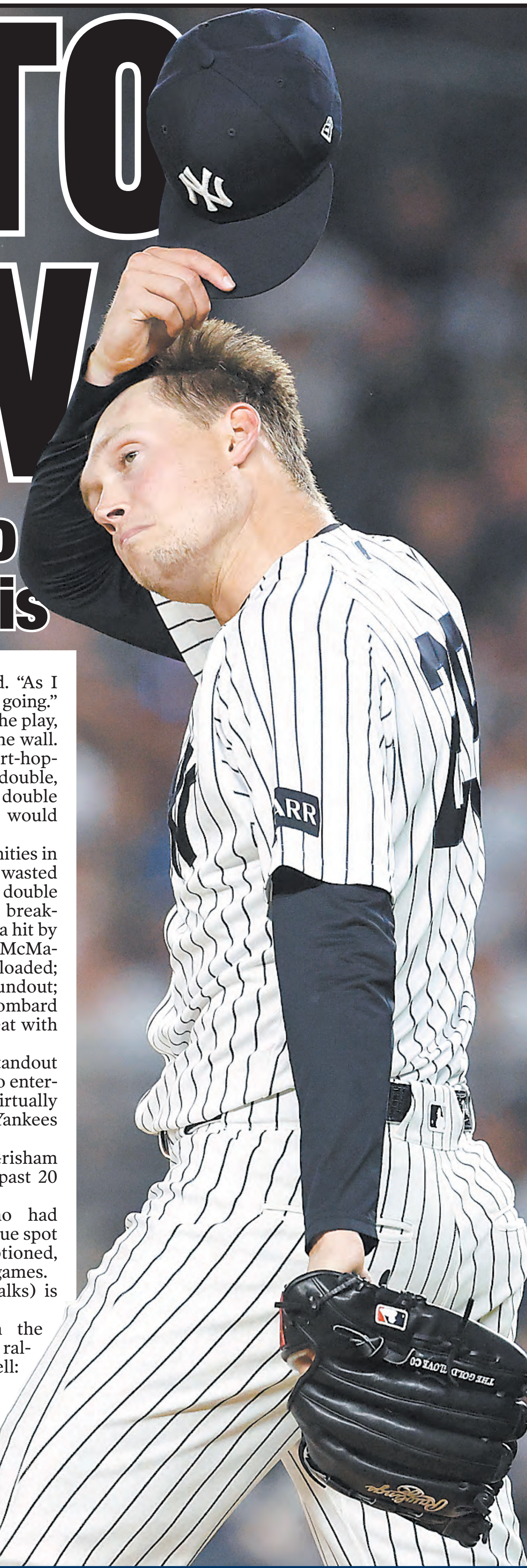
More Yanks / P. 48, 49



A WILL, BUT NO WAY: Will Warren, who allowed three runs on seven hits, reacts on the mound in the first inning. Spencer Jones (inset) loses his helmet after striking out in the second.

Jason Szenes; Imagn Images

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

LEAVE 'EM STRANDED: Ryan McMahon, who went 0-for-2, reacts after striking out with the bases loaded for the final out of the sixth inning in the Yankees' 3-1 loss to the Cardinals. Jason Szenes

It's going to be a tight race to finish line in East

THERE IS something real afoot in the American League East, something genuine. You might actually call it a pennant race. There are three teams plainly good enough to finish in first place. There are two other teams that, barring an odd reversal of fortune, will almost certainly partake in the postseason.

Mike Vaccaro

They are, with more than two-thirds of the season in the books, the three best teams in the American League, with all due respect to the White Sox and Astros, who entered play Wednesday as first-place teams. We are, beginning this weekend, entering the seven-week homestretch of the season, seven weeks for things to sort themselves out.

Win. Place. And Show.

Now, you may wish to stop me here and spray a little settle-down spritz on this. You may declare that there has been no real pennant race since 1968 — the last time only league champions made the postseason — or 1993, the last time only first-place finishers were included. That's fine. You can say that.

You can say spending the next seven weeks watching the Rays, Yankees and Red Sox circle their playoff chairs until the music stops isn't quite the same as 1949 (or 1978), when the Yankees and Sox battled to the very last inning of the season, or 1951, when the Giants caught the Dodgers, then buried them with one forever swing of the bat. Back in the day you could win 103 games in a season (like the '54 Yankees did) and still finish eight games out of the money (since Cleveland won 111).

But we also used to enjoy black-and-white television. We also used to spend about 50 bucks a minute on dial-up internet. We used to do a lot of different things. And the fact is, all you need to do is look at last year, same division, to see how important the next seven weeks are.

Last year it ended this way in the East:

Blue Jays
Yankees
Red Sox.

Then, like now, they were the three best teams in the league. And things played out exactly as that seeding system is supposed to work out. The Yankees earned three home games by finishing ahead of the Sox for playoff-round seeding; they won two out of three at Yankee Stadium, and moved on to play the Jays in the ALDS. And the Jays, by virtue of winning the division with a tiebreaker, earned not only a first-round bye but home-field advantage.

Place was better than Show.

And Win was better than Place.

Entering these last seven weeks, if we sub the Jays out and add the Rays, the same stakes are in play. Three teams, all separated by fewer than five games in the loss column. Let's look at how they stack up:

Tampa Bay Rays

Record: 68-46, first place.

Remaining opponents winning percentage: .500

Notable: Four games left with the Yankees, three with the Red Sox.

No matter how many pennant races they unexpectedly fall into, the Rays will always be considered the upstarts of this threesome. But they are also terrific on both sides of the ball, and they made one of the most immediately impactful additions at the trade deadline in catcher Liam Hicks, who hit a grand slam in his first game as a Ray.

(They also got seven earned runs in $3\frac{2}{3}$ innings from Freddy Peralta in his debut Tuesday night, meaning that after 22 years the Mets may finally have avenged Victor Zambrano-for-Scott Kazmir.)

New York Yankees

Record: 64-51, -4.5.

Remaining opponents winning percentage: .490

Notable: Four games left with the Rays, four with the Sox.

The Yankees remain the team to beat here because of their rotation, although that designation withers with every Judge-free day they play. George Lombard Jr.'s debut infused energy, but also a helpful reminder that competent, confident defense at shortstop makes any team look immediately 25 percent better.

(The Yankees need only do what the Knicks did: make sure the healthiest day of the year is the first day of the playoffs. If that happens, see you in Chavez Ravine for Game 1.)

Boston Red Sox

Record: 62-51, -5.5

Remaining opponents winning percentage: .483

Notable: Four games left with the Yankees, three with the Rays.

The Sox are now 30-5 in their last 35 games and they're no longer just a cute story, they're a legit team that's risen to a dangerous place (and is now tied with the Yankees in the loss column; as recently as June 24 that number was 15).

(And come on: Wouldn't the prospect of another Yankees-Red Sox date in October be a wonderful thing?)

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Judge cleared for light activity, vows he'll be back this season

By ZACH BRAZILLER

No. 99 is on the road back.

Consider Wednesday afternoon the first step.

A day after an MRI exam showed his fractured rib had healed enough for him to begin light activity, including outdoor running and upper-body work in the weight room, Judge was on the field in pinstripes with his teammates jogging in the outfield and stretching. Later he expressed a belief it's not about if he will return this year, but when.

"Oh, I'll be back this season. I don't know why I wouldn't be," Judge said. "That was always the plan to come back — sooner than later, definitely — but I never had a thought of not playing this year.

"It was great. Moving fine, moving great. My biggest thing is I wanted to start testing it a little bit and see what we got, especially after getting some good news."

On Monday, general manager Brian Cashman said he remained "very optimistic" that Judge would come back at some point but couldn't offer a guarantee. That was before this latest dose of good news.

The three-time MVP has been on the injured list since May 31 after suffering a stress fracture to his rib. There is obviously a long way to go for Judge, a lengthy buildup required considering how long he has been out. Judge will need another MRI exam before he can advance to baseball activities. The rib isn't completely healed. But it has improved enough to take this important first step. He doesn't have a timeline at the moment.

"I wish it was completely healed and the fracture is gone and [I can] start playing tomorrow, but that's not the case," he said. "I got a broken rib, so you're going to feel it, but it's healing up.

"That's the progress we want to see, so we can start doing some more, testing it and see where we're at. We're running out of days. We got 52 days left, 53 days left. We've got to get back out there."

Manager Aaron Boone added, "It's more symptom-based now as he starts to introduce things. The running outside is new, and some of the upper-body resistance stuff he'll be able to do. Then as he tolerates that, [he will] start moving into baseball activities at some point."

The Yankees have missed Judge a lot, as expected. They have gone 28-27 without him, and the offense has struggled massively. In his absence, the Yankees are averaging just under four runs per game, compared to 5.2 with him. They currently sit four games behind the AL East-leading Rays and only lead the third-place Red Sox by two games.

Cashman did add two bats ahead of the Aug. 3 trade deadline in Luis García Jr. from the Nationals and Heliot Ramos from the Giants, and Giancarlo Stanton and Cody Bellinger are working their way back from injuries.

"We got the hitters we wanted, I think that's the biggest thing especially now and the position we're in," Judge said. "We're trying to chase down the Rays and win the division. That's the most important thing. We played the wild-card [series] last year. It's always a coin flip, you never know what's going to happen. Our goal is to win the division, set ourselves up to try to win the World Series."

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Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

Paramount+

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

We're on board for Joe's (**Zoe Saldaña**, left) inner conflict reaching new levels in Season 3 of **"Lioness."** We just wish that Taylor Sheridan wouldn't waste so much time with bloody shoot 'em ups and would leave more time for character exploration. **OUR CALL: STREAM IT**

WHAT TO WATCH

FX has given **"Adults"** fans the backstory on how its central friend group found Paul Baker (Jack Innanen) in a laugh-out-loud-inducing standalone prequel episode. Titled "Marathon Day," the new installment sees Anton (**Owen Thiele**, left) caught in a lie with his co-workers, who believe he's running the New York City Marathon and go to support him.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

MAKING HIS MARK

'DWTS: The Next Pro' judge Mark Ballas talks taking on the ballroom and Broadway

Mark Ballas (above) is a judge on "Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro" alongside his mother, Shirley Ballas (below left).

By KAREN KEMMERLE

Mark Ballas is used to having people watch every step he takes. As one of the most beloved pros on **"Dancing with the Stars,"** Ballas was the perfect choice to be a judge on **"Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro."** The competition series follows 12 of the best dancers from across the world as they vie to be a pro on "Dancing With The Stars" Season 35. And who could be better to sit next to Ballas at the judging table than his own mother, Shirley Ballas? Lovingly called "The Queen Of Latin" by fans, she has been the head judge on **"Strictly Come Dancing"** for the past nine years.

"You couldn't find a judge for 'DWTS: The Next Pro' who loves the art of dancing as much as my mom," gushed Ballas, noting that her feedback is "direct, firm, and honest." Ballas also appreciates that he and his mother welcome a new "DWTS" pro each week to the judges' table to help them determine which dancers should continue in the competition. "It keeps things fresh," explained Ballas. "It was also wonderful to see them as mentors on the different challenges."

While "DWTS: The Next Pro" airs its inaugural season, Ballas is back on Broadway as Billy Flynn in **"Chicago."** During his first run in Broadway's longest-running show, Ballas starred alongside his "DWTS" Season 34 partner, **"Secret Lives Of Mormon Wives"** star Whitney Leavitt. "A lot of our routines on 'DWTS' were quite theatrical," said Ballas. "We danced to a 'Chicago' song; we danced to a **'Wicked'** song; we danced to a **'Hamilton'** song." Now that Ballas is well into his second stint as Flynn (you can see him until August 16!), he finds himself diving "even deeper into the character." "It's really fun to discover new things with new people with every performance," said Ballas."

Ballas stopped by the DECIDER studio to discuss "DWTS: The Next Pro," marvel at Robert Irwin's skills as a host, and talk all about "Chicago."

DECIDER: "Dancing With The Stars" fans have longed to get a behind-the-scenes look at how the pros approach their craft. How long has "The Next Pro" been in the works?

MARK BALLAS: I don't know how long the series has been in the works, but I do know that the pros always hoped that something like this would happen. "DWTS: The Next Pro" is giving you a peek behind the curtain to see what your favorite pro goes through on a weekly basis—whether it's the technique you have to teach, the chemistry you have to build, the story you have to tell, etc.

This is also the first time any "DWTS" pro has had this type of showcase. Back when I started, there was no troupe. Twitter didn't exist. They just threw us out there and were like, "Figure it out, kid." [Laughs] Someone compared this show to "ballroom boot camp," which is a really good way of putting it. Whoever wins this competition is going to be a pro on Season 35, and they are not going to be ready for it. It doesn't matter how experienced you are because you are not ready until you actually start doing it.

Season 34 champ Robert Irwin seems to be doing a wonderful job as the host of "The Next Pro." How do you think he's doing?

He's an excellent host. I was behind the judges' desk watching him read off the cue cards. I was in awe of his energy and how he got the contestants hyped up. I told him, "You were born for this."

You're back as Billy Flynn in "Chicago" on Broadway until August 16. What made your first run so much fun that you wanted to do it again?

I went to school for musical theater. "Chicago" was one of the first shows I saw as a child. Songs like "All That Jazz" and "All I Care About" have been a part of my life for so long. When I grew up in England, I would go see shows on the West End. Broadway seemed absolutely unobtainable. Playing Billy Flynn in "Chicago" on Broadway, which is the longest-running American musical of all time, is a dream.

The first run I did was too short. It was only a month! Previously, I did **"Jersey Boys"** for six months, and **"Kinky Boots"** for four months. When they asked me to come back to "Chicago" in the future, I couldn't say "yes" fast enough. So, I'm back; it feels great. I'm able to dive even deeper into the character. There have been some changes in the cast as well, so it's really fun to discover new things with new people with every performance.

PFLAG
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Getty

TRENDING NOW

Da Bears! Hallmark Channel unveiled the cast joining Lyndsy Fonseca and Robert Buckley in the network's upcoming movie **"Holiday Touchdown: A Bears Love Story,"** which includes **Khary Payton** (left), Marsha Mason, and Barbara Alyn Woods.

WHAT'S NEW

ON HBO/HBO MAX
"**Monsters of God**," a new docuseries (left).

ON NETFLIX
"**My Life with the Walter Boys**," the Season 3 premiere.

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

ROMANCE

Pretty Woman: 7:15 p.m. on TNT. Richard Gere, Julia Roberts. A corporate raider hires a hooker to act as a business escort in Beverly Hills, California.

DRAMA

Pulp Fiction: 8 p.m. on PARSHO. John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson. The lives of two hitmen, a boxer, a gangster and his wife, and a pair of diner bandits.

THRILLER

Jaws: 11 p.m. on AMC. Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. A massive killer shark unleashes chaos on a beach community off Long Island.

Thursday August 6, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Big Brother		(9:01) First Marriage (R)	Ghosts: The Others (R)	First Marriage: A Will	Ghosts: The List (R)	CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics (R)
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Football Night in America		NFL Preseason Football: 2026 Hall of Fame Game: Arizona Cardinals vs Carolina Panthers from Canton, Ohio. Live.						News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Extra	TMZ	The 1% Club: I'm Just Dumb (R)		Best Medicine: Doc Martin (R)		The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York	Feud Favorites (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!: Wildcard (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Family Feud: Julie Bowen vs Yvette		(9:01) Press Your Luck: Hot 4 Teacher		The Greatest Average American: Staten Island (R)		News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Dateline: The Capture		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: Reckless	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(6:00) PIX11 News at 6	Seinfeld	The Big Bang Theory	Trivial Pursuit: Weird Science (R)		Scrabble: Reign Check (R)		PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: The Pitch
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC World News	The PBS News Hour		My Music Presents: Red White and Rock					Island Hopping Europe	Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Nature		NOVA		Movie		To Be Announced		BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Laura	Great Conversations		Food.	Potluck	Roots	Feet	Hospitality and Politics		My World	LBJ Library
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) FBI	FBI: Protective Details		FBI: One Night Stand		FBI: Fear Nothing		FBI: Face Off		FBI: Ghost From The	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Corazon de Oro		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Operación Triunfo				El Señor de los Cielos		Lejos de Ti		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Capturing		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	First 48 (R)	The First 48: Rumors Kill		The First 48: No Exit		Accused: Guilty or		(10:01) Accused: Guilty or		(11:04) Accused: Guilty or	
AMC	54	43	231	(6:00) Jaws (1975, Thriller) Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. PG ★★★½					TNA iMPACT!				Jaws (1975) PG ★★★½	
BBCAM	71	101	189	(6:00) Donnie Brasco (1997, Drama) Al Pacino, Johnny Depp. ★★★½					A Few Good Men (1992, Drama) Tom Cruise. R ★★★½					
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) ATL (2006, Drama) T.I., Evan Ross. PG-13 ★★					Roll Bounce (2005, Comedy) Bow Wow. PG-13 ★½					
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives of Orange County			Housewives (R)		(10:32) Housewives (R)		Housewives
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	(9:20) The Office: Gossip		The Office	The Office	Family Guy	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	(6:00) Jobs	Dirty Jobs (R)		Dirty Jobs: Rock Sucker		Dirty Jobs: Escalator (R)		Dirty Jobs (R)		Dirty Jobs: Jellyballer (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Big City	Big City	Phineas	Phineas	Wizards	Phineas	Phineas	Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Book Club	The Help (2011, Drama) Emma Stone. PG-13 ★★★½						The Help (2011, Drama) Emma Stone. PG-13 ★★★½			
ESPN	28	36	70	Softball	MLB Baseba	MLB Baseball: Minnesota Twins at Kansas City Royals. Live.						SportsCenter		Sports
ESPN2	29	35	74	Sports	Red Bull S	Red Bull	T-Rex	Corgi Race	Meadowland	NuLu Bock	Great Baha	2026 World	2026 Blackbird	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Restaurant Impossible		Ramsay's Secret Service		Ramsay's Secret Service		Kitchen Nightmares	
FREE	38	49	199	(5:00) Pitch Perfect (2012)		Pitch Perfect 2 (2015, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG-13 ★★★					Project Runway		The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	Travis	FIFA World Cup: Final		Leagues Cup Soccer Live.				Greatest Games: Big Ten Championship			
FX	10	40	53	(6:00) The Martian (2015, Science Fiction) Matt Damon. PG-13 ★★★½					The Bear: The Original		(10:20) Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014)			
HALL		191	240	(6:00) A Country Wedding (2015) NR ★★★			Harvest Moon (2015, Romance) Jesse Hutch. NR ★★★				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	Worst Yard	House	House	House	House	House Hunters: Alaska		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Secrets (R)	Secrets Declassified (R)		Secrets Declassified (R)		Secrets Declassified		(10:03) Ancient Aliens		(11:05) Ancient Aliens (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Monster	American Monster		Married to Evil		A Killer Among Friends		Game Day Murders		Murder Under the Friday	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Cracked		NCIS: Broken Arrow		NCIS: Enemies Foreign		(10:03) NCIS: Enemies		NCIS: False Witness	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	MSG PM	Knicks Classics				MSG Vault				Knicks Classics	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) To Be Announced: Program information is currently unavailable.										
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Ridiculous	Jersey Shore: Family (R)		Jersey Shore: Family		Jersey Shore: Ronnie (R)		You're Cordially Invited (2025, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R			
NATGEO	65	162	121	Treasures	Treasures Bible (R)		Treasures Bible (R)		Treasures Bible (R)		Treasures Bible (R)		Treasures Bible (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	(5:00) Trolls	Sing 2 (2021, Family) Matthew McConaughey. PG ★★★½					Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	Videos	Funniest Home Videos		Ray (2004, Drama) Jamie Foxx. PG-13 ★★★½						First-Time	First-Time
PARMT	36	56	54	The Wedding Singer (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler.				(8:25) Miss Congeniality (2000, Comedy) Sandra Bullock. PG-13 ★★½					The Wedding Singer ★★½	
SNY	26	60	77	Jets Nation: Inside Camp		MLB Baseball: New York Mets at Cleveland Guardians. Replay.					Jets Nation: Inside Camp		Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	M3GAN (2023, Horror) Allison Williams.			Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011, Action) Shia LaBeouf. PG-13 ★★½							Knight's
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) Love and Death (1975, Comedy)			Shoot the Moon (1982, Drama) Albert Finney. R ★★★				(10:15) Annie Hall (1977, Comedy) Woody Allen. ★★★½			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day: Last: The Last		90 Day: The Last Resort		Little Singles		Jay & Pamela (R)		Baylen Out Loud (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	Blended	(7:15) Pretty Woman (1990, Romance) Richard Gere, Julia Roberts.					(9:45) Blended (2014, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore.				
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		F9 (2021, Action) Vin Diesel. PG-13 ★★½						(11:01) F9 (2021, Action)	
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	ATL (2006, Drama) T.I. PG-13 ★★					Baby Boy (2001) Tyrese Gibson. R ★★½		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Grace Period		NCIS: Cover Story		NCIS: Brothers in Arms		NCIS: In the Dark		NCIS: Trojan Horse	
YES	53	89	76	Yankees	Minor League Baseball Live.					Homegrown	Yankeeography		Yankeeography	
HBO	511	301	400	The Long Walk (2025) R		Stand by Me (1986) Wil Wheaton. ★★★½			Monsters of God		Monsters of God (R)		House of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	Beetlejuic	(7:19) Adult Best Friends (2025)			Christmas with the Kranks (2004, Comedy) Tim Allen.				Colette (2018, Drama) Keira Knightley. R		
MGM Plus	595		395	Platoon (1986, Drama) Tom Berenger. R			First Blood (1982) Sylvester Stallone. R			(9:35) Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985)			(11:15) Rambo III (1988) R	
PARSHO	551	321	365	Faster (2010, Action) Dwayne Johnson.			Pulp Fiction (1994, Crime) John Travolta. R ★★★★					(10:35) The Mechanic (2011, Action) ★★½		

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'I'LL BE BACK THIS SEASON'

Aaron Judge, on the injured list since May 31 with a fractured rib, can begin running again and doing upper-body work in the weight room. And the three-time MVP is confident he will be back to lead the Bombers into the playoffs. **PAGE 57**

Cleared for light activity, Judge vows to return in '26

LAY IT ON THE LINEUP

BATS SILENCED AGAIN IN LOSS TO CARDINALS

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